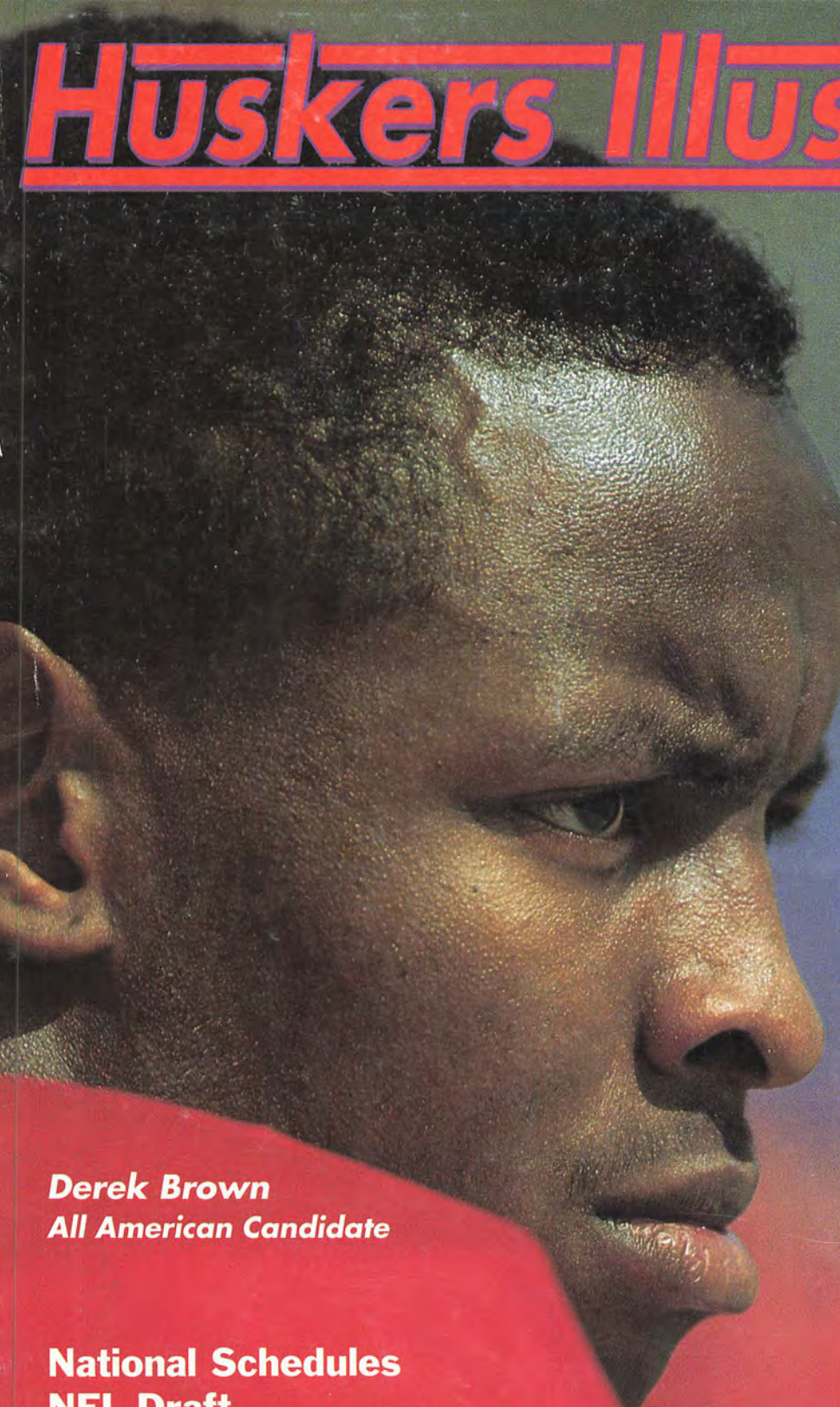
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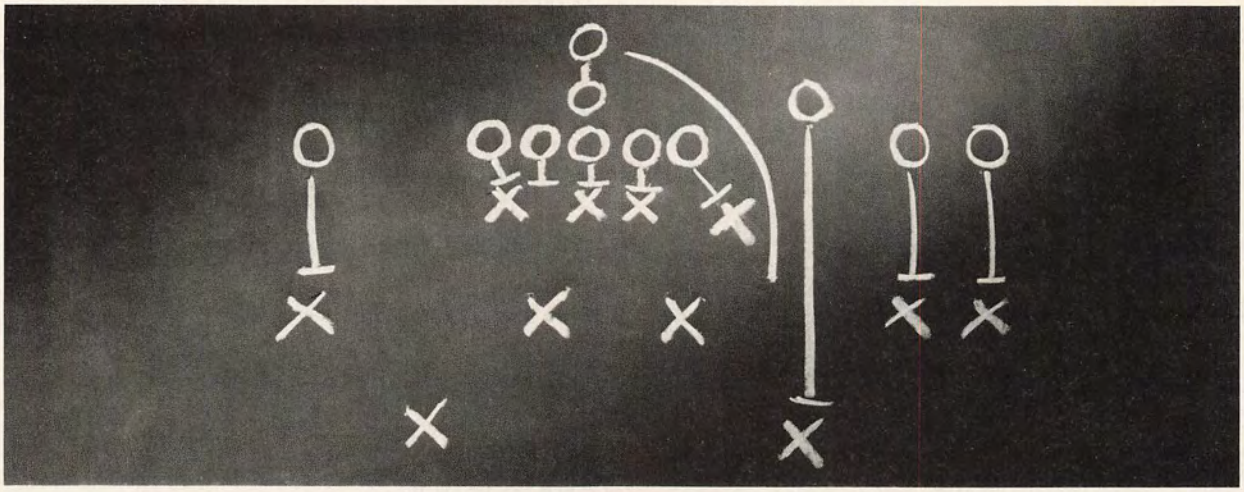
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Huskers Illustrated

Volume12, Number 5

(ISSN) 0279-3474) is published weekly during football season except for open dates and monthly the rest of the year, except no issue in May and a combined issue for June/July, plus occasional special issues by Sports Magazines of America, Inc. Offices are located at 7130 S. Lewis, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74136. Telephone: 918/496-7405. Reproduction or use of editorial or graphics content in any manner without permission is prohibited. Photographs and manuscripts for publications are welcome, but will not be acknowledged or returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The publisher assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material. Address all subscription inquiries and changes of address to Huskers Illustrated, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-3222. Allow six to eight weeks for response. Give old and new address and enclose latest mailing address label when writing about your subscription. Lithoed in U.S.A. Second class postage paid at Tulsa, Oklahoma. Subscription rates: U.S. and possessions, $39.90 for one year; U.S. annual first class $55.90 (does not include yearbook); Canada first class, $75.90; Foreign countries, $65.50; foreign first class, $127.50; single copy, $2.75.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Huskers Illustrated, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-3222.

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ON THE COVER

Derek Brown returns for his junior season and will be in line for All-American honors. *Photo by William Lauer.*







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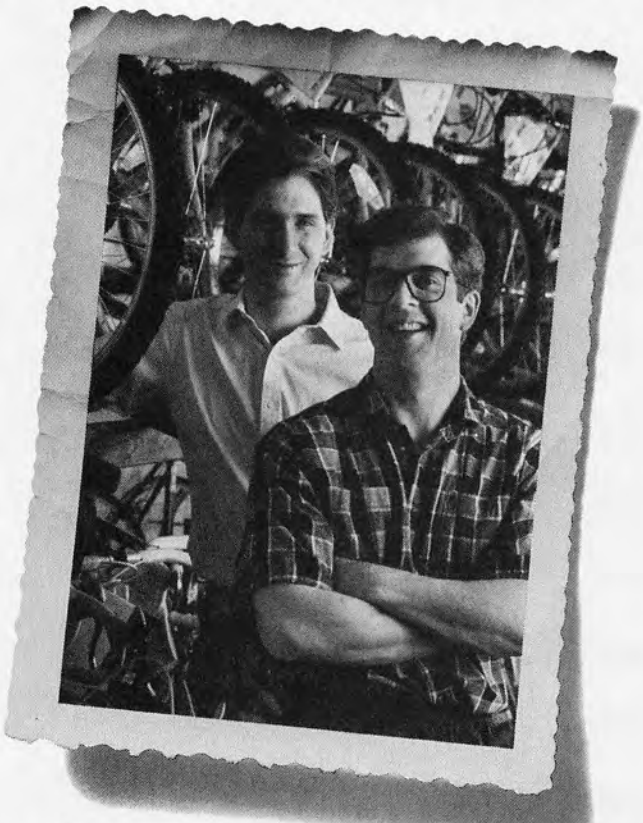
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LETTERS *from our readers*

CLASS ACT IN RECRUITING

As a student at Nebraska from 1936-38, I grew up with football heroes Sam Francis, Lloyd Cardwell and others. Since I was a chemical major, I was forced to seek employment outside of Nebraska and Rutgers.

In the last couple of years Doug Graber has attracted New Jersey players for in-state competition.

Several all staters were recruited by Rutgers and Nebraska. You might be interested in what the players from Rutgers say about your recruiters.

Here is a quote from an article printed in the *Newark Star Ledger*.

"Nebraska wished me luck and all that. They had class about it. When they found out I was going to Rutgers, everybody else was criticizing them and putting them down."

What a good report on your recruiters. Go Big Red!

Win or lose, you're a class act.
Earl Kaplan
Metuchen, N.J.

CONGRATS TO NEE

Congratulations to Coach Danny Nee and his players for another great season. It sure makes the time between football seasons bearable when the basketball team has respectable showings.
Mark Dreier
Plymouth, Wis.

CLOSE TO NO. 1

The first college football game my brother and I ever watched was NU versus OU in 1971. Ever since then, we have been huge fans of Nebraska football. Even though we have lived most of our lives in Southern California, we follow the Huskers from game to game, and season to season. Congratulations to Coach Osborne and the Cornhuskers on a very exciting '91 campaign. With all the great, young talent we possess, along with the great recruiting year we've had, I think a No. 1 is in the near future.

See you in Seattle in 1992.
Kevin & Chris Conradt
Huntington Beach, Calif.

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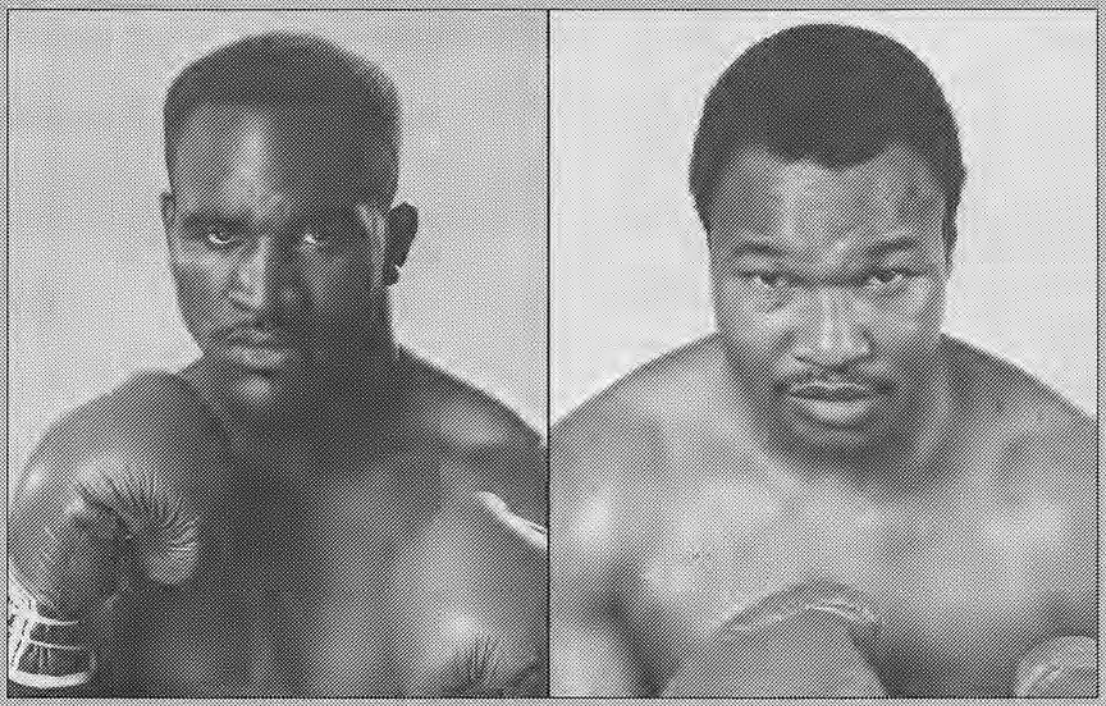
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by Mike Babcock

Spring Defers Quarterback Resolution to Fall

When Tony Veland arrived at Nebraska as an eager freshman in the fall, he was uncertain about the position he'd be playing. He was recruited because of his athletic ability and intelligence more than because of the position he would play. Nebraska promised him an opportunity to play quarterback. But there were no guarantees.

Some eight months later, Veland not only was a quarterback, he was the Cornhuskers' No. 1 quarterback in the annual Red-White intrasquad game.

Fifth-year senior Mike Grant, also a redshirt last fall, was the logical starter going into the spring, and he still could win the No. 1 job during fall camp. But Grant, though physically talented and easily the most experienced of Nebraska's quarterbacks, has been the victim of injuries throughout his career.

In a major scrimmage two weeks before the Red-White Game, Grant suffered a broken collarbone that sidelined him for the remainder of the spring.

Veland didn't become No. 1 by default, however, as evidenced by the fact he was already at the top of the depth chart before the injury. Veland had a solid spring.

In seven scrimmages, including the spring game, Veland rushed for nearly 300 yards and completed 20-of-31 passes for more than 200 yards.

Among the many qualities that recommend Veland as a prime candidate to start at quarterback in the fall is his resiliency. "Tony doesn't seem to get rattled," Osborne said.

That was apparent in the spring game. After an interception, Veland settled down and played well, most of the time against the top defense — or what was left of it. The No. 1 defense was beset by injuries in the spring.

Still, it was healthy enough to test Veland. In a departure from recent seasons, Osborne put the No. 1 offense and the No. 1 defense on opposite sides.

Veland is a strong runner, which, of course, is essential in Nebraska's option offense. According to Cornhusker Defensive Coordinator Charlie McBride, who would have gotten him for the secondary if things hadn't worked out, Veland is "probably the best running quarterback we've had since I've been here."

Veland stands 6-foot-1 and weighs 190 pounds. Even so, he has the best time among Nebraska's quarterbacks in the 40-yard dash, having run 4.52.

But Osborne is looking for more versatility in his quarterbacks as he strives for diversity in the offense, which means neither Veland nor Grant, also a good runner, will win the No. 1 job on running ability alone.



Senior Mike Grant, foiled by injuries once again.

Veland proved he could pass during the spring, though, by his own admission, he still lacks consistency. Some days he has problems completing passes, while other days he completes nearly every pass he throws.

Veland has mastered the mechanics of passing. That's not the problem. He just needs to be more consistent, by avoiding the occasional "floater, or duck," he said.

Probably the most significant negative in evaluating Veland's chances of starting at quarterback this season is his lack of experience.

"He just hasn't taken a whole lot of snaps," Osborne said.

Because of the complexity of Nebraska's offense, experience is important to a quarterback, who must learn everyone else's responsibilities as well as his own.

Nebraska has 29 practices in the fall, leading up to the opener against Utah on Sept. 5 at Memorial Stadium. Osborne will continue to evaluate Grant and Veland, as well as the other quarterbacks, all of whom made progress during spring practice.

Matt Jones, a sophomore from Michigan City, Ind., teamed with Duane Wiles for the longest play from scrimmage during the spring game, a 59-yard touchdown pass in the final minute of the fourth quarter. Jones, the White team starter, had 13 pass completions in 22 attempts for 163 yards.

Brook Berringer, a redshirted freshman from Goodland, Kan., completed 7-of-12 passes for 49 yards, with one interception. And Todd Gragnano, a sophomore from Fountain Vally, Calif., didn't play. Gragnano was one of the football players suspended following an off-season incident involving baseball players at a party off campus.

The Cornhuskers' other quarterbacks, Joel Cornwell and John McMillan, are fifth-year seniors. Both played well in the spring game.

Two highly regarded recruits figure to join the quarterback competition as freshmen in the fall, Tommie Frazier and Ben Rutz. Veland is aware of talk that Frazier, *USA Today's* high school Offensive Player of the Year from Bradenton, Fla., might be good enough to start right away.

Most recruiting analysts considered Frazier the best high school option quarterback in the nation.

"If Tommie Frazier can come in and learn the system in a couple of weeks, he deserves the job," Veland said. "But I can't really see a true freshman coming in here, learning this system and starting."

In any case, it's all speculation for now. "A lot of how good we are in the fall depends on the off-season," Osborne said. ■

A SPRING FULL OF UNCERTAINTIES

With missing bodies and inexperience at certain positions, Nebraska will have to wait until fall for answers to materialize.

By Ken Hambleton

There are still a lot of "whens," "not sure yets," and "wait and sees," after the 43rd annual Nebraska Red-White intra-squad spring game.

The "whens" include, when will senior quarterback Mike Grant get back from a broken collarbone that sidelined him through the last two weeks of spring football? Another is, when will redshirt freshman Tony Veland, or a host of other young, inexperienced players be ready to take over as quarterback?

When these uncertainties solidify, Nebraska will be able to open up its offense and fire out behind the largest, and possibly best offensive line in recent years.

"Oh, we've got the line in front of us to do a whole lot of things," NU I-back Calvin Jones said, after he ran for 31 yards and caught two passes for 27 more in the spring game.

"There are some big, mobile people there in front and that's going to give the offense a lot of time to develop."

Meanwhile, Grant will return in the fall to battle with Veland for the top spot. Veland led the spring game rushers with 55 yards and scored a touchdown to lead the Red to a 33-21 victory.

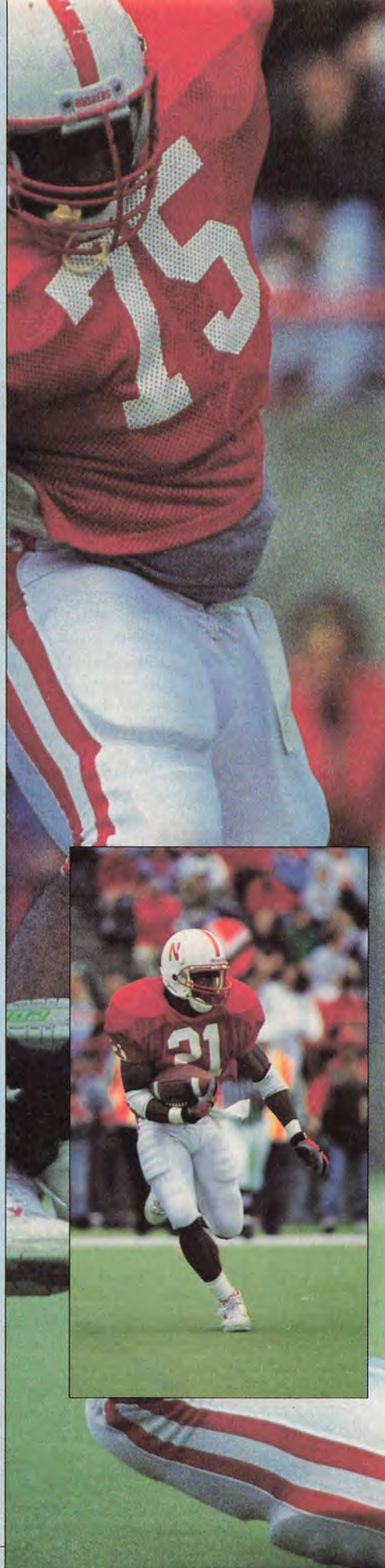
Veland, a freshman from Omaha Benson, hit four of nine passes for 49 yards and a touchdown. After he was intercepted for a touchdown by Tyrone Byrd on his first play of the game, Veland settled into the role of leader.

"Tony stepped right up there and performed well the last two weeks," Jones said. "You could see he was nervous to start the Red-White game, but this was his first chance in front of a big crowd (24,000) and he made the big jump. He could have taken a big step backward after that interception, but he got back on top and got us going."

After throwing the interception, Veland hit tight end William Washington — the heir apparent for Johnny Mitchell — on a 15-yard gain. He handed off to Derek Brown for a gain of six, then picked up six of his own on a draw. Three plays later, Veland hit Tyrone Hughes on an 8-yard pass on fourth down to set up a 17-yard touchdown pass to Vincent Hawkins in the back of the endzone.

And the entire scoring drive was against Nebraska's No. 1 defense.

"I think Tony played well," NU Coach Tom Osborne said. "He didn't get rattled and he hung in there well. It's obvious, he'll need to work hard on his throw-



Husker opponents will find it difficult this season to shutdown or even slow down Calvin Jones (44) and Derek Brown (inset).

Photos by William Lauer.


HUSKERS
44

ing over the summer, but how good we are next fall will depend a lot on what we all get done over the summer."

Veland said the competition against the No. 1 defense was painful, but helpful.

"They dish out the licks and that's an experience that not a lot of other defenses can do like ours can," he said. "All spring long, they pounded on me and the offense. But it'll make us better.

"I hope we helped make the defense better, too."

NU Defensive Coordinator Charlie McBride and Osborne said that missing people on defense made it hard to rate the Black Shirts this spring.

"We'll have people like Christian Peter, Larry Townsend and Paul Hawley in there for the first time next fall. We'll have David Noonan back at middle guard (he missed most of spring with an ankle injury), and we'll have a full-speed Kenny Willhite at cornerback, a healed up John Parrella and a healed up Kevin Ramaekers at defensive tackle, too."

Parrella, who had a broken bone in his hand, still had a sack and three tackles for losses in the scrimmage. Redshirt sophomore Bill Humphrey played well at noseguard and defensive tackles Jamie Liewer and Bruce Moore were singled out for praise by Osborne.

"We were not as sharp in the spring game as we had been," McBride said. "Actually, 15 days is like kissing your sister. You don't have enough time to teach basics and put in the defense, too. And so it came down to the spring game, where the defensive line couldn't hold up physically to the offensive line.

"We need to get better overall and we'll need to have some fresh faces help us do that," he said. "The secondary is lacking depth and the defensive line was pretty well out of numbers by the spring game."

McBride said he was pleased with the fact the No. 1 defense managed to score two touchdowns — on Byrd's interception and a fumble recovery and return by Humphrey.

"We limited some of the things we want to do on defense next fall," McBride said. The Cornhuskers utilized more of the Chicago Bear defense — a type of 4-6 blitzing, gambling lineup — in a few of the spring scrimmages, but not in the spring game.



Tony Veland rebounded from an early interception and connected on a touchdown toss four plays later.
Photo by William Lauer.

"I see potential and I see a lot of chances to improve," McBride said.

McBride said he was impressed with the NU offense.

"I think Tony Veland shows great intelligence and as a runner, he may be the best ever since I've been here. I think we have a good offense and I should know because we went up against them all spring," he said.

Osborne echoed McBride.

"I don't know if we'll go up against better people next fall very often than going against our No. 1 defense," he said. "I think we'll be okay on defense with the next people and I think we'll be okay on offense if the quarterbacking keeps getting better."

Osborne said he had made no conclusions about quarterback.

"We have 29 practices in the fall before the opener and nothing has been decided right now. We may not make a choice until the last week before the opener (Sept. 5 against Utah)."

The statistics show that Joel Cornwell and John McMillan (both walkon seniors) combined for seven of 14 passes for 127 yards and redshirt sophomore Matt Jones led all passers with 13 of 22, for a 163-yard performance. Redshirt freshman Brook Berringer hit 7-of-12 passes for 49 yards. Sophomore quarterback Todd Gragnano missed the game for disciplinary reasons.

"I honestly think that as we get used to the different quarterbacks and then get settled on one, we'll be able to open up the offense," NU senior offensive guard Will Shields said. "We made as many changes in the offense this spring as we did last spring. Most of the changes were subtle and not obvious for the fans. But the obvious changes will become more apparent as we get one or two quarterbacks in charge and that's what fall is going to be all about."

Osborne said the evaluation his staff gained in the spring and the concentrated effort of game-type scrimmages throughout the spring should help the staff make its choices in the first three weeks of fall practice.

"Eventually, I see this as a pretty good team," he said. "There is some talent here and there are some reasons to believe we can have a good season. The defense has given a good effort and the offense has come along well.

"We have a lot of people who haven't played a lot, but we can expect people like Zach Wiegert, Joel Wilks, Rob Zatechka, Ken Mehlin and others in the line to develop. We have the receivers and we feel that Derek Brown and Calvin Jones may be as good a pair of running backs as we've ever had." ■

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Tops in the League

Our picks for preseason All-Big Eight

By Travis Lawrence

When Cale Gundy arrived at Oklahoma, he carried the heaviest baggage of all — potential.

He became a starter as a freshman. His skills improved and consequently he was named the Big Eight's Offensive Newcomer of the Year.

Gundy improved in his second season, 1991, and garnered honorable mention all-conference honors racking up 1,228 yards (91-of-172) and eight touchdowns. His 52.9 completion percentage was the best since Bobby Warmack hit 56.3 percent of his aerials in 1968.

His 91 completions set a single season OU record, as did his total yardage figure. In only two years at the helm of the Sooner air attack, Gundy ranks third on the all-time completion list with 145 and is fifth in yardage with 2,132.

In last year's 48-14 Gator Bowl thrashing of Virginia, Gundy threw for a single-game record 329 yards and two touchdowns while capturing MVP honors.

So, Gundy improved each season, making him the obvious choice to head the 1992 All-Big Eight team.

Dan Eichloff (above) didn't play football until his sophomore year in high school, but is now one of the nation's best kickers.

Four of the offensive players on the first-team squad — Nebraska teammates Will Shields (guard) and halfback Derek Brown, Kansas placekicker Dan Eichloff and Iowa State kick returner James McMillion — were all-league selections last season. Two others were second-team selections.

On the list, along with Gundy, are tight end Joey Mickey (6-5, 269, sr.), guard Jeff Resler (6-2, 260, soph.), wide receiver Corey Warren (5-11, 203, jr.) and fullback Kenyon Rasheed (5-10, 228, sr.).

Originally, the fullback spot was going to be scrapped from the first-team list in favor of an additional receiver because of the conference's swing toward more of a passing game. But there's no legitimate way to leave Rasheed off the list.

In the slots left by OU, Iowa State is represented by tackle Doug Skartvedt (6-3, 308, jr.) and McMillion (5-10, 177, jr.), while Missouri boasts a first teamer in wide receiver Victor Bailey (6-4, 200, sr.).

Kansas State center Quentin Neujahr anchors the line.

Mickey provides a huge target and has some big shoes to fill — that of OU All-American Keith Jackson, the last Sooner star at the position. Mickey appears to be up to the challenge. He had 13 catches for 127 yards and a touchdown last year, but snared five passes for two touchdowns in the victory over Virginia.

Wideouts Warren and Bailey have the speed and the moves to make any pass a healthy gain.

Warren was an honorable mention All-Big Eight selection last season, catching 26 passes for 366 yards and three touchdowns. Five of those catches, for 110 yards, came in the Gator Bowl win. Not bad for a converted defensive back.

Bailey had 29 grabs for 508 yards last season, even though he was limited to only eight games because of an injury.

The offensive line is just downright monstrous.

Neujahr (6-4, 270, jr.) comes into the season with 22 consecutive-starts under his huge belt. Behind Neujahr the Wildcat running game has improved from 59.7 yards to 159.6 yards a game. He should be a legitimate contender for All-American honors this year.

The tackles don't pale in comparison as Skartvedt and Jim Hansen (6-6, 280, sr.) can both pass block or open big enough holes for even the slowest footed back to make a decent gain. Skartvedt, if he stays injury-free, could be as good a blocker as Iowa State has had.

The guards, Resler and Shields, had big years last season and will be leaders on their respective lines this fall.

Shields (6-1, 305, sr.) already has a pair of All-Big Eight selections to his credit and in 1991, was a second team All-American.

The fact Resler has only one hand (the other was lost a week after his birth due to an infection) hasn't stopped the Sooner guard. The Edmond High (Okla.) product was a first team freshman All-American in

'91.

Running behind that line would be easy, especially for NU's Brown (5-9, 185, jr.) who rushed for 1,313 yards (second best in the Big Eight) and finished the season ranked ninth nationally with an 119.36 yards per game average.

Rasheed was the Sooners' second-leading rusher in 1991, with 355 yards on 77 carries. He also scored four touchdowns .

Placekicker Eichloff (6-0, 215, jr.) was a second team All-American while booting his way into a first team All-Big Eight berth. He is also a top-notch punter. Iowa State's McMillion led the Big Eight in punt returns (14.86 yard per) with 17 returns for 251 yards.

Five of the starters on the first-team defense are returners from a Buff defense which finished second in the conference allowing only 321.4 yards a game, but only 69 points in the last five games of the season.

The front four consists of Oklahoma State's lone selection Jason Gildon, Jayhawk Dana Stubblefield, and a Buff pair in Leonard Renfro and Jeff Brunner.

Gildon (6-4, 220, jr.) led the conference from his right end spot in sacks with 16, while Stubblefield (6-3, 280, sr.) was a distant second with 10. Brunner (6-2, 265, jr.) played in the shadow of departed All-American Joel Steed, but made quite an impact when he got into the game. Renfro (6-4, 280, jr.), a first teamer last year, led Big Eight linemen with 78 tackles.

The linebacking corps is composed of the Killer B's — Oklahoma's Reggie Barnes (6-1, 218, sr.) and Colorado teammates Greg Biekert (6-3, 230, sr.) and Chad Brown (6-4, 235, sr.).

Biekert, a previous first-team selection, had 78 solo tackles last season including a team-high 16 third-down stops. Brown, classified as an outside linebacker, was second to Biekert in tackles last season with 125 and eight sacks.

All four of the defensive backs — free safeties Mark DouBrava (6-0, 192, sr.) of Iowa State, K-State's Jamie Mendez (6-0, 195, jr.), and strong safety Steve Carmer (6-2, 210, sr.) of Nebraska and Buff left corner Deon Figures (6-1, 195, sr.) — are returners to the All-Big Eight list.

Carmer set a Nebraska defensive back record last season with 87 tackles, while also leading the team in the same category. Figures finished second in the league in pass breakups with 12, while DouBrava chipped in 99 tackles for his team.



Jaime Mendez (32) stopped Nebraska's Derek Brown on a fourth-and-goal dive, just one example of his big play capability.

Finishing third on the Wildcat roster with 79 tackles, Mendez is a big time player who has a knack for really showing up when the odds favor the other squad. Against co-National Champion Washington, Mendez scored 14 tackles and was only one off that mark against Colorado.

Making honor lists is becoming a habit for Stigge (6-2, 190, sr.) after earning all-Big Eight and GTE Academic All-American honors last season when he averaged 42.1 yards a punt and a 3.517 GPA in the classroom. A starter since his sophomore year, Stigge has led Nebraska in putting all three years.

Nebraska leads the offensive second-team selections with five nominees in tight end William Washington (6-2, 260, sr.), tackle Lance Lundberg (6-4, 300, jr.), guard Chris Zyzda (6-2, 290, sr.), I-back Calvin Jones (5-11, 210, soph.) and return man Tyrone Hughes (5-10, 175, sr.).

Both Lundberg and Zyzda are a little short on experience, but the ability to really control the line is there. History has shown Nebraska has a way of turning average linemen into award winners. Washington, an honorable mention selection last year, hasn't had the big receiving years that his predecessor Johnny Mitchell (who

turned pro this season) had, but his assets are blocking and patiently waiting for his turn. Jones' feats have been well chronicled, while Hughes' has had to work a little harder for much needed recognition. Returning only 16 kickoffs last year, Hughes led the conference with a 21.13 yard average.

Joining the pair of Huskers on the line are Jayhawk tackle Keith Loneker (6-3, 305, sr.) and center Dan Schmidt (6-1, 265, jr.) as well as Missouri guard Mike Bedosky (6-5, 288, jr.).

Missouri's Phil Johnson (6-5, 205, jr.) is a much improved player and leads the second team at quarterback. Johnson finished fifth in passing efficiency hitting 167-of-311 for 2,029 yards and 14 touchdowns last season, but was ranked second in the conference in total offense with 2,187 yards.

The two receivers on the squad are ISU's Chris Spencer (6-4, 199, sr.) and tiny Bert Milliner (5-6, 150, sr.) of OSU.

Spencer led his team and finished 10th in the league after catching 25 passes for 356 yards. Milliner makes up for his lack of size with blinding speed and enough courage to go up for a floater against double coverage. Last season, he caught 47 passes for 631 yards and finished second in the Big Eight in receptions per game.

Unlike the first team, the fullback spot was bumped in order to make room for Oklahoma's Earnest Williams (5-11, 190, jr.).

Jones came out of nowhere to finish second in the league and ninth nationally with a 119.36 yard per game average while rushing for 900 yards. Williams, who rejoined the team this spring after leaving last fall, has the talent and potential to be a first-team selection.

Jacke (6-0, 190, sr.) didn't rack up the points last season but when given the chance he's almost deadly. He hit 11-of-14 field goals including 7-of-9 beyond the 40-yard line.

No team dominates the second-team defense with only OSU and ISU lacking representation.

The front line consists of Colorado tackle Marcellous Elder (6-5, 295, sr.), Sooner co-Big Eight Defensive Freshman of the Year Greg Wilkins (6-4, 280, soph.), and a tandem of Jayhawks in Kyle Moore (6-3, 250, sr.) and Gilbert Brown (6-2, 305, sr.).

Oklahoma's Trey Tippens (6-3, 235, sr.) receives his first nomination at linebacker and joins previous second-team selections Wildcat Brooks Barta (6-0, 215, sr.) and Husker Travis Hill (6-2, 240, sr.).



Joey Mickey is hoping to follow in former All-American tight end Keith Jackson's footsteps.

Barta has melded brains with brawn to become one of the nation's best linebackers. The senior was a second team all-american in 1991, a season in which he led the Wildcats in tackles for a third straight time with 108. He is also a three-time all-league academic first teamer.

Back deep are Missouri's Jason Oliver (5-11, 170, jr.) and Maurice Benson (6-0, 197, sr.), as well as Nebraska's Kenny Wilhite (5-8, 195, sr.) and Sooner Darnell Walker (5-8, 170, sr.).

Pound-for-pound, Benson is the Tigers' strongest player and has 115 tackles, three interceptions and 11 pass breakups to his credit. Oliver finished third in the league with 11 pass breakups while also racking up 59 tackles.

Wilhite might be a chancy pick since he is coming off a knee injury suffered against Kansas last year. But if healthy, he will be one of the top corners in league.

Though not all that big, Walker packs a wallop. Considered among the nation's best man-for-man defenders, he led the Big Eight with 12 pass breakups in addition to 29 tackles.

Brad Reddell (6-2, 195, sr.) is another one of those players who doesn't garner a lot of attention. He finished fifth in the conference in '91 with a 39.87 average punt.

Given the talent array around the league's schools, the Big Eight should be solid. ■

OFFENSE

FIRST TEAM

POS.	NAME	SCHOOL
WR	Victor Bailey	MU
T	Doug Skartvedt	ISU
T	Jim Hansen	CU
C	Quentin Neujahr	KSU
G	Will Shields	NU
G	Jeff Resler	OU
TE	Joey Mickey	OU
QB	Cale Gundy	OU
WR	Corey Warren	OU
RB	Derek Brown	NU
FB	Kenyon Rasheed	OU
PK	Dan Eichloff	KU
KR	James McMillion	ISU

SECOND TEAM

POS.	NAME	SCHOOL
WR	Chris Spencer	ISU
T	Lance Lundberg	NU
T	Keith Loneker	KU
C	Dan Schmidt	KU
G	Mike Bedosky	MU
G	Chris Zyzda	NU
TE	William Washington	NU
QB	Phil Johnson	MU
WR	Bert Milliner	OSU
RB	Calvin Jones	NU
RB	Earnest Williams	OU
PK	Jeff Jacke	MU
KR	Tyrone Hughes	NU

DEFENSE

FIRST TEAM

POS.	NAME	SCHOOL
DL	Jason Gildon	OSU
DL	Leonard Renfro	CU
DL	Dana Stubblefield	KU
DL	Jeff Brunner	CU
LB	Reggie Barnes	OU
LB	Greg Biekert	CU
LB	Chad Brown	CU
DB	Jamie Mendez	KSU
DB	Deon Figures	CU
DB	Mark DouBrava	ISU
DB	Steve Carmer	NU
P	Mike Stigge	NU

SECOND TEAM

POS.	NAME	SCHOOL
DL	Kyle Moore	KU
DL	Marcellous Elder	CU
DL	Gilbert Brown	KU
DL	Greg Wilkins	OU
LB	Trey Tippens	OU
LB	Brooks Barta	KSU
LB	Travis Hill	NU
DB	Jason Oliver	MU
DB	Kenny Wilhite	NU
DB	Darnell Walker	OU
DB	Maurice Benson	MU
P	Brad Reddell	OU

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Nebra Bread

Redshirts, Walkons and Jucos provide the backbone for Husker consistency year in and year out.

In the Big Eight Conference, known in the recent past as a plaything in the hands of Nebraska and Oklahoma, one of the most consistent things of late has been change.

The Sooners, without a conference title since 1987, won their first bowl game since the 1986 season by passing up a storm. Although Oklahoma's 324 yards passing in its 48-14 Gator Bowl victory against Virginia was most likely an aberration because OU still prefers a balanced offense in contrast to a total sellout to the passing game, the Sooners have recruited players who can make them a legitimate passing threat.

On defense, the Big Red of the South plans to blitz often, thanks in part to the philosophies of defensive coordinator Tom Hayes, who previously coached at blitz-crazed Texas A&M. Out west — at Colorado — the Buffs have improved since 1985 from pitiful to powerful, thanks, in large measure, to a great rushing attack and strong defense.

Still, despite their success, the Sooners and Buffs are hard to figure out.

OU has won seven, then eight and now nine games under Gary Gibbs, but he still hasn't convinced a fair number of Oklahoma supporters that he's their man (eight of the lowest post-expansion crowds at Owen Field have attended during Gibbs' contract). Colorado played for the national title in back-to-back Orange Bowls, then last October and November the Buffs underachieved, looking like they should have gracefully declined a bowl bid in favor of an overachiever, like Kansas State. And even though going into the 1992 season the Buffs' linebacking corps has been rated the best in the nation by *The Sporting News*, talented Colorado does not have the fearsome look of 1989-90; and



Above left: In his first full spring, Brook Berringer (14) made some improvement but still finds himself deep on the quarterback chart.

Above: A junior college transfer, Trumane Bell (80) has been a surprise at flanker.

ska's 'n' Butter

by Mark Owens



Fullback Cory Schlesinger (25), has the raw size, but still lacks the ability to get past defenders such as Tony Branch.

OU has enough questions on defense to keep the Sooners from having their overpowering look of the late 1980s. The Big Eight race is a jumble.

Except for Nebraska.

The Cornhuskers again appear in solid shape to win at least nine games, fight for the Big Eight title, play in a Bowl (most likely on New Year's Day) and possibly fight for one of the juicy spots in the Top 10. In today's Information Age, there is no more convincing information than Nebraska's three-decade-long lease in the high-rent district of college football. Just read the fine print about consecutive winning seasons, bowl games, conference titles, national championships, home sellouts, All-Americans, academic all-stars, statistical championships, etc. Where Nebraska has signed on the dotted line, the signature reads, "consistency."

The reasons behind Nebraska's consistency would make subject matter for volumes of books. One critical issue to note during the off-season is that the Cornhuskers regularly replace their departed seniors with talented newcomers.

To call these replacements "youngsters" is not always accurate because in many cases during the Huskers' reign at the top, the replacement troops have been on campus for two or three years before winning praise on the field. In the past, this happened via the much-respected redshirt program. Today, the Big Red reinforcements also come from giving dignity to Proposition 48 athletes and from the junior college ranks.

Spring practice of 1992 showed that several talented redshirts are moving up the Husker depth chart, and the fight for starting jobs and key backup roles next fall will heat up even more. The new faces of football promise to fortify the same old Nebraska.

Among the redshirts on offense, almost every player at the key position of quarterback was coming off a redshirt year. While many redshirts throughout Nebraska's rich grooming history have briefly slipped out of the limelight, quarterback Tony Veland has continued to remain in the media's focus since he came south last fall from Omaha Benson.

Veland enters fall drills as a redshirt freshman and in the race for the No. 1 quarterback spot. Senior Mike Grant's collarbone injury sidelined him for much of spring practice. With Grant out, Veland responded with a spring practice that included 60 percent passing and swift running. He'll take a slight edge into summer break over other redshirt "veterans" such as Matt Jones, Brook Berringer and Todd Gragnano.

Fullback Cory Schlesinger (Columbus, Neb.) goes into fall drills as a redshirt sophomore. As a freshman on the 1990 junior varsity team, Schlesinger rushed for 229 yards and two touchdowns on 42 carries plus four receptions for 42 yards. He came out of Columbus as a three-year football starter, all-state linebacker and two-time state wrestling champion. In spring ball, he challenged Lance Lewis and Andre McDuffy for the starting fullback position.

At center, Aaron Graham (6-foot-5, 270) comes off a medical redshirt season where he worked his way up to No. 3 on the depth chart in fall drills of 1991 as a freshman, only to miss the campaign because of a hand injury.

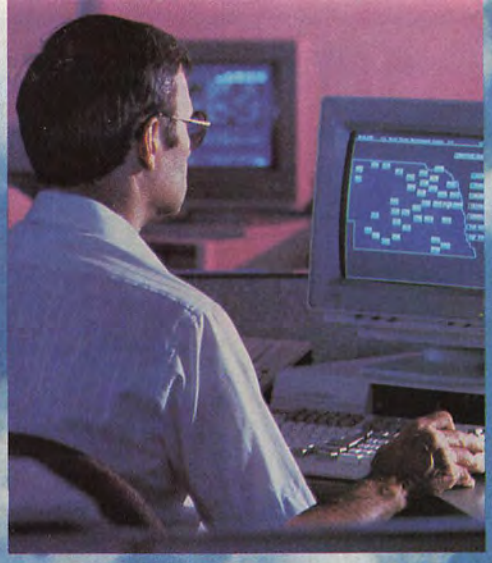
Tight End Mark Gilman goes into next fall as a redshirt freshman. This versatile athlete was all-state at Kalispell, Mont., as both a tight end and quarterback. At 6-foot-5, he was a 20-points-per-game scorer in basketball and state placer in the discus and shot.

At split end, Trumane Bell is coming off a redshirt season after transferring to Nebraska a year ago from Highland (Kan.) Community College where he caught 46 passes for 938 yards and five touchdowns. As spring drills wound down, Bell (6-4, 200) was battling with Duane Wiles and Darin Duin for the No. 3 split end spot.

On defense, Phil Ellis goes into the fall as a redshirt freshman at inside linebacker, where the Cornhuskers are loaded with youthful talent. Assistant Coach Kevin Steele has high praise for his inside linebacking corps, but there's not a senior on the three-deep, post-spring lineup.

Ellis came out of spring ball battle Troy Branch for the No. 3 spot at the highly talented strong-side linebacker position.

In 1990, Ellis (6-2, 225) came out



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Matt Jones (18), worked with the No. 3 offense and completed 13-of-22 passes for 163 yards in the spring game.

of Grand Island as the No. 6 middle linebacker in the country, according to Max Emfinger's ratings. Ellis was named Super-State, All-State and all-conference. He was also named the state's Defensive Player of the Year by the *Lincoln Journal-Star* following the 1990 high school season. Grand Island is also the prep stomping grounds of former Husker Tom Rathman (now of the San Francisco 49ers) and current inside linebacker Mike Anderson, currently vying for the starting strong-side job.

Another inside linebacker coming off a redshirt year is Matt Penland however, Penland's redshirt story is one you don't hear often.

Walking on in 1989 from Christian High School in Jacksonville, Fla., Penland played on that fall's junior varsity team. He waited for what he expected would be a second-year redshirt. But it never happened and in the 1990 season opener against Baylor, Penland played extensively, launching a fruitful season as a much-needed backup for strong-side linebacker Mike Petko. After the 1990 campaign, Penland underwent arthroscopic knee surgery, missing spring ball and putting him in a deadline situation trying to rehabilitate the knee in time for the 1991 season. He eventually got severe tendinitis in the knee and sat out last fall as a medical redshirt.

During the past spring, Penland gave chase at weak-side linebacker, with only Ed Stewart and Doug Colman holding higher spots on the depth chart.

During the summer, the academic results on four talented Proposition 48 football players from the 1991 recruiting class will be in, and the Huskers stand to benefit substantially if those results are high enough to satisfy NCAA eligibility requirements.

The most talked about name on that list is probably Christian Peter, a 6-2 and 312-pound noseguard who has as much physical talent as any Cornhusker middle man in a long time, according to NU Defensive Coordinator Charlie McBride.

Unlike most Proposition 48 football players, Peter has briefly been able to show his ability on the field. When the powerful New Jersey resident arrived in Lincoln last fall, he worked out with the team during preseason drills. But, the NCAA notified Husker athletic department officials that Peter was in academic trouble — even though his entrance test score and grade-point average were fine. The trouble came from back-and-forth transferring by Peter from a public to a private school. The NCAA balked at Peter's core courses and ruled that he was ineligible.

Still, Peter's performance during preseason drills hinted that he has the physical tools (including a 450-pound bench press) to contribute soon despite his inexperience: he's played just one season of football in the past four years. Before sitting out the 1991 Husker season while attending classes at UNL, Peter missed the 1990 and 1988 high school seasons because of eligibility snags related to his transferring. His 1989 on-field success as a dominating middle guard, however, helped lead Middletown South High School to an unbeaten state title.

Another Prop 48er is outside linebacker Dewayne Harris of Bessemer, Ala. Harris was a *USA Today* All-American and rated the No. 10 defensive end in the nation by Max Emfinger following the 1990 prep season, when Harris led Lanier High School to the Class 6A state championship. The 4.6 speedster made more than 150 tackles, with almost a fourth of those coming behind the line of scrimmage. Harris came out of an outstanding high school program and chose the Cornhuskers over in-state powerhouses Auburn and Alabama.

Barron Miles was an all-state quarterback and defensive back out of Roselle, N.J., while Charles Randolf is a talented tight end who first signed with Florida State. Having missed the NCAA standards and never enrolling on the Seminole campus, Randolph had an unrestricted choice of colleges after leaving St. Augustine High School of New Orleans, La.

If the four Prop 48 players qualify academically this summer, they will count against the Huskers' 25-scholarship limit for the 1992 recruiting class.

New faces from the juco route are defensive backs Toby Wright and Kareem Moss.

Wright (6-0, 180) played safety at Phoenix Junior College where he was Junior College Gridiron and California All-American. A two-year starter, Wright made a team-high 119 tackles in his sophomore season. This hard hitter with 4.5 speed enrolled at UNL at midterm and went through spring drills. Moss redshirted his first season at Garden City (Kan.) Community College, then helped his team to the league crown in the always tough Jayhawk conference. Tall, at 6-5 and 200 pounds, Moss still has outstanding straight-ahead speed (10.5 in the 100 meters and 4.5 in the 40). Moss will have three years to complete three seasons of eligibility. ■

	Conference Games					All Games				
Team	W	L	T	Pct.	PF-PA	W	L	T	Pct.	PF-PA
Colorado	6	0	1	.929	181-93	8	3	1	.708	309-180
Nebraska	6	0	1	.929	285-121	9	2	1	.792	454-230
Oklahoma	5	2	0	.714	206-96	9	3	0	.750	383-157
Kansas State	4	3	0	.571	159-121	7	4	0	.636	263-226
Kansas	3	4	0	.429	187-175	6	5	0	.545	313-244
Iowa State	1	5	1	.214	71-190	3	7	1	.318	157-256
Missouri	1	6	0	.143	115-289	3	7	1	.318	131-403
Oklahoma State	0	6	1	.071	72-200	0	10	1	.045	106-307

Rushing Offense

	G	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	Y/G
1. Nebraska	11	595	3885	6.5	45	353.2
2. Oklahoma	11	606	2752	4.5	33	250.2
3. Kansas	11	614	2698	4.4	30	245.3
4. Colorado	11	554	2499	4.5	23	227.2
5. Kansas State	11	469	1756	3.7	21	159.6
6. Iowa State	11	516	1739	3.4	14	158.1
7. Oklahoma St.	11	433	1245	2.9	3	113.2
8. Missouri	11	360	1180	3.3	9	107.3

Rushing Defense

	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	Y/G
1. Oklahoma	11	403	1140	2.8	5	103.6
2. Nebraska	11	440	1516	3.4	15	137.8
3. Colorado	11	487	1649	3.4	11	149.9
4. Kansas	11	426	1660	3.9	20	150.9
5. Kansas State	11	486	2001	4.1	15	181.9
6. Oklahoma St.	11	499	2106	4.2	22	191.5
7. Iowa State	11	500	2266	4.5	17	206.0
8. Missouri	11	628	3677	5.9	42	334.3

Passing Offense

	AT	CP	IT	PCT	YDS	TD	Y/G
1. Missouri	406	218	15	53.7	2661	18	241.9
2. Kansas State	338	184	16	54.4	2475	12	225.0
3. Oklahoma St.	318	145	23	45.6	1798	9	163.5
4. Nebraska	205	116	8	56.6	1686	17	153.3
5. Colorado	214	112	6	52.3	1589	16	144.5
6. Kansas	231	114	7	49.4	1530	6	139.1
7. Oklahoma	192	97	7	50.5	1295	9	117.7
8. Iowa State	197	103	11	52.3	1291	3	117.4

Pass Efficiency Defense

	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT	PTS
1. Oklahoma	328	161	2004	10	25	95.2
2. Colorado	286	141	1886	6	13	102.5
3. Missouri	283	137	1878	10	11	108.0
4. Nebraska	322	167	2256	9	16	110.0
5. Kansas	297	162	1879	10	10	112.1
6. Kansas State	272	136	1864	14	12	115.7
7. Oklahoma St.	289	167	2078	15	16	124.2
8. Iowa State	250	135	1824	14	10	125.8

Total Offense

	G	PLY	YDS	AVG	TD	Y/G
1. Nebraska	11	800	5571	7.0	60	506.45
2. Kansas State	11	807	4231	5.2	33	384.64
3. Kansas	11	845	4228	5.0	36	384.36
4. Colorado	11	768	4088	5.3	39	371.64
5. Oklahoma	11	798	4047	5.1	42	367.91
6. Missouri	11	766	3841	5.0	27	349.18
7. Oklahoma St.	11	751	3043	4.1	12	276.64
8. Iowa State	11	713	3030	4.2	17	275.45

Total Defense

	G	PLYS	YDS	AVG	TD	Y/G
1. Oklahoma	11	731	3144	4.3	15	285.8
2. Colorado	11	773	3535	4.6	17	321.4
3. Kansas	11	723	3539	4.9	30	321.7
4. Nebraska	11	762	3772	5.0	24	342.9
5. Kansas State	11	758	3865	5.1	29	351.4
6. Iowa State	11	750	4090	5.5	31	371.8
7. Oklahoma St.	11	788	4184	5.3	37	380.4
8. Missouri	11	911	5555	6.1	52	505.0



Derek Brown (left, 21) and his Nebraska team have the tools to capture another total offense crown this season. Cale Gundy (opposite page) is the most efficient quarterback returning in the Big Eight.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

1992 RETURNERS IN BOLD

Rushing

	G	AT	YDS	AVG	TD	YPG
1. Tony Sands, KU	11	273	1442	5.3	9	131.09
2. Derek Brown, NU	11	230	1313	5.7	14	119.36
3. Mike Gaddis, OU	11	221	1240	5.6	14	112.73
4. Eric Gallon, KSU	11	224	1102	4.9	9	100.18
5. L. Warren, CU	9	157	830	5.37	7	92.22
6. Calvin Jones, NU	10	108	900	8.3	14	90.00
7. K. McCant, NU	11	117	654	5.6	7	59.45
8. **R. Denson, OSU**	11	150	569	3.8	2	51.73

Passing Efficiency

	G	AT	CP	PCT	I	YDS	T
1. K. McCant, NU	11	168	97	57.74	8	1454	13
2. Darian Hagan, CU	11	170	88	51.76	6	1228	12
3. Paul Watson, KSU	11	304	172	56.58	10	2312	10
4. Cale Gundy, OU	10	172	91	52.91	7	1228	8
5. Phil Johnson, MU	11	311	167	53.70	13	2029	14
6. Chip Hilleary, KU	11	188	98	52.13	5	1267	6
7. Jeff Handy, MU	9	89	48	53.93	2	565	3
8. K. Caldwell, ISU	10	57	32	56.14	3	416	1

Total Offense

		Rush		Pass			
	G	AT	NT	AT	YDS	YDS	Y/G
1. Paul Watson, KSU	11	110	42	304	2312	2354	214.00
2. Phil Johnson, MU	11	67	158	311	2029	2187	198.82
3. K. McCant, NU	11	117	654	168	1454	2108	191.64
4. Chip Hilleary, KU	11	93	400	188	1267	1667	151.55
5. Darian Hagan, CU	11	133	386	170	1228	1614	146.73
6. Kenny Ford, OSU	11	87	147	239	1387	1534	139.45
7. Tony Sands, KU	11	273	1442	0	0	1442	131.09
8. Cale Gundy, OU	10	65	-21	172	1228	1207	120.70

All Purpose Runners

	G	RUN	REC	PR	KO	YDS	Y/G
1. Tony Sands, KU	11	1442	7	0	0	1449	131.73
2. Derek Brown, NU	11	1313	86	0	24	1423	129.60
3. Eric Gallon, KU	11	1102	247	0	0	1349	122.64
4. Mike Gaddis, OU	11	1240	051	0	0	1291	117.36
5. L. Warren, CU	9	830	117	0	0	947	105.22
6. M. Smith, KSU	11	17	768	250	0	1035	94.09
7. Calvin Jones, NU	10	900	25	0	0	925	92.50
8. Bert Milliner, OSU	11	2	631	90	161	884	80.36

Receptions Per Game

	G	CT	YDS	TD	C/G
1. M. Smith, KSU	11	55	768	6	5.00
2. Bert Milliner, OSU	11	47	631	3	4.27
3. R. Kirksey, OSU	11	43	614	5	3.91
4. Kenny Drayton, KU	11	34	439	3	3.09
5. R. Campbell, KSU	11	32	595	2	2.91
6. Kenny Holly, MU	11	31	399	1	2.82
6. J. Mitchell, NU	11	31	534	5	2.82
8. Skip Leach, MU	10	27	316	3	2.70

Interceptions

	G	NO	YDS	TD	IPG
1. S. Harmon, OSU	11	6	90	0	.55
2. C. Franks, OU	11	5	75	1	.45
3. Jason Belser, OU	11	5	72	0	.45
4. Chris Hudson, CU	11	4	111	1	.36
4. William Price, KSU	11	4	63	0	.36
4. Tim Hill, KU	11	4	39	0	.36
4. D. Walker, OU	11	4	58	0	.36
8. Ted Johnson, CU	9	3	19	0	.33

Field Goals

	G	FGA	FG	PCT	FG/G
1. Dan Eichloff, KU	11	24	18	.750	1.64
2. Jeff Jacke, MU	9	14	11	.786	1.22
3. Ty Stewart, ISU	11	17	12	.706	1.09
4. B. Bennett, NU	11	18	11	.611	1.00
5. Jim Harper, CU	11	13	8	.615	.73
5. Tate Wright, KSU	11	15	8	.533	.73
7. Rick Myers, OSU	11	12	7	.583	.64
8. Scott Blanton, OU	11	12	4	.333	.36

Scoring

	G	TD	XP	FG	PTS	PT/G
1. Calvin Jones, NU	10	74	0	0	86	8.60
2. Dan Eichloff, KU	11	0	31	18	85	7.73
3. Derek Brown, NU	11	14	0	0	84	7.64
3. Mike Gaddis, OU	11	14	0	0	84	7.64
3. Chip Hilleary, KU	11	14	0	0	84	7.64
6. B. Bennett	11	0	45	11	78	7.09
7. Jeff Jacke, MU	9	0	17	11	50	5.56
8. Tony Sands, KU	11	9	0	0	54	4.91





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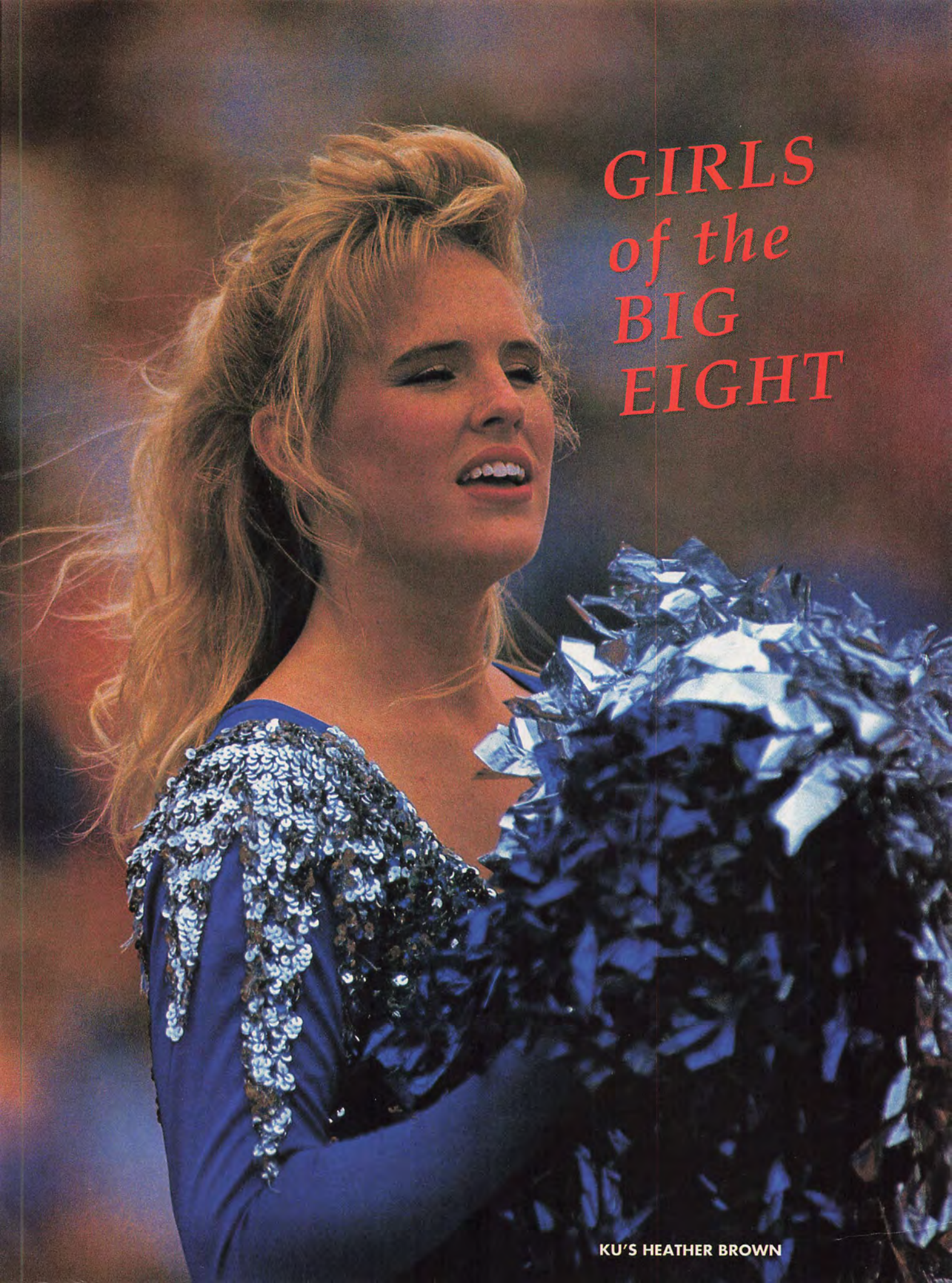
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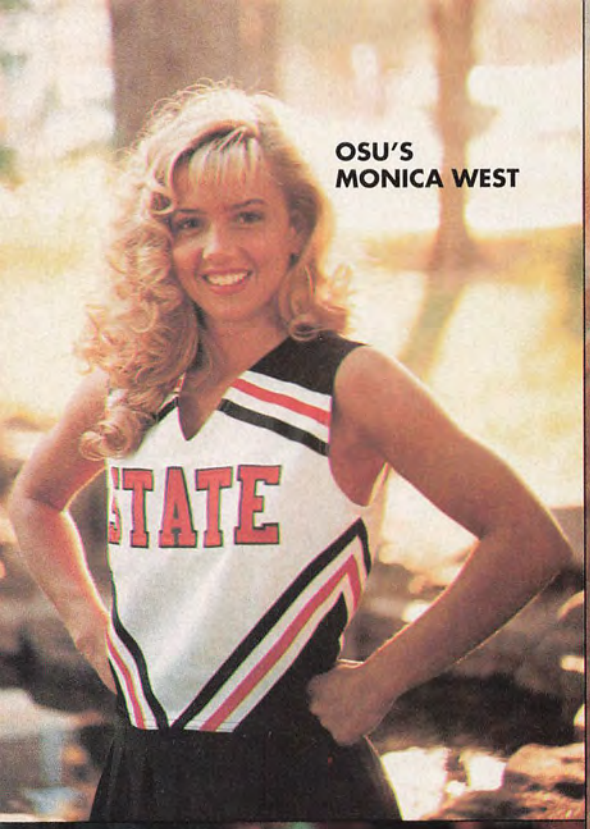
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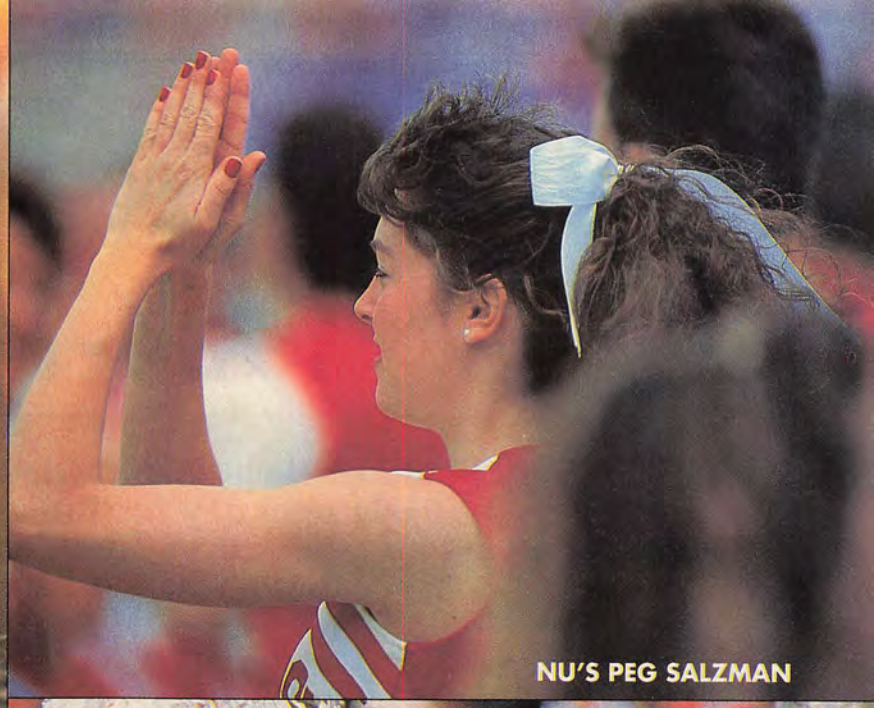
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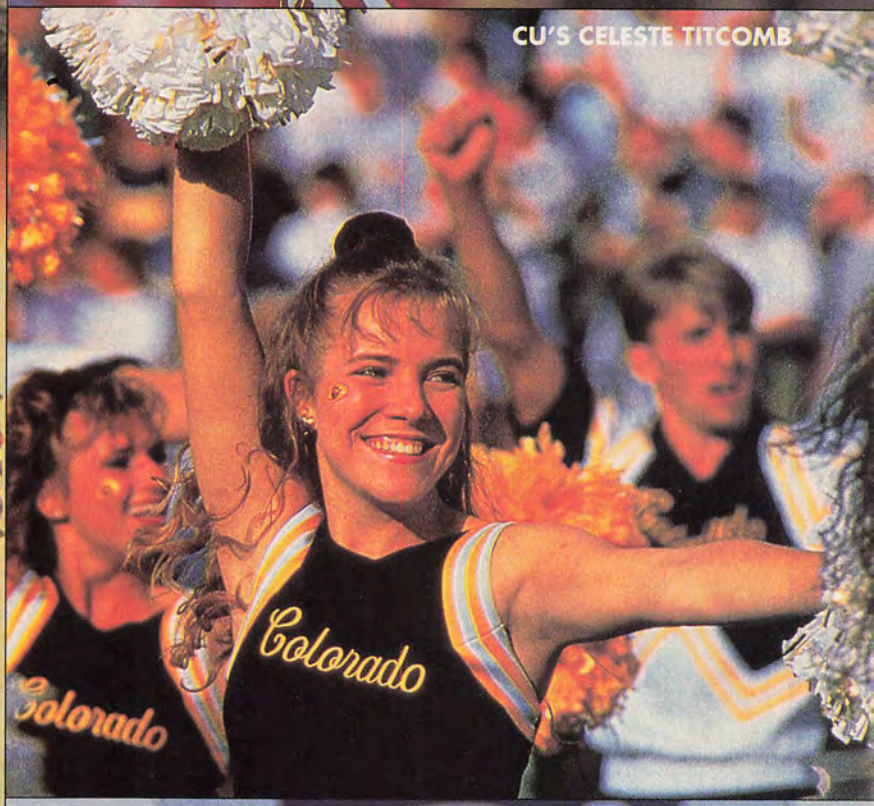
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CU'S CELESTE TITCOMB



KSU's KARI FAUST (l) and CAMI KNOLL (r)

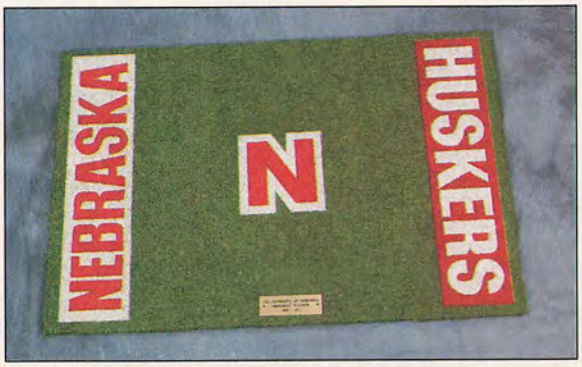
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The Race to Miami

By Bill Connors

In a year when the Big Eight does not appear to have a legitimate contender for the national championship, there is an inclination it also does not have a deserving favorite in the conference race. Consider the reasons to be both impressed and reserved about the three acknowledged powers.

Oklahoma has the best quarterback and perhaps more all-conference possibilities, but no depth and no one on its roster who was around when the Sooners last won the championship ticket (1987) to the Orange Bowl.

Colorado has the best defenders and gifted quarterbacks to direct a new offense but is bucking its tradition and the Big Eight's in opting to pass.

Nebraska has the two best running backs on any Big Eight team, and perhaps on any Division I campus, but a quarterback who carries more baggage than hope.

There is an unwritten rule about these things that says close races are decided by quarterbacks and defensive linemen. So, are Oklahoma and Nebraska co-favorites? No. It says here Nebraska is the slightest of favorites, because of Tom Osborne's track record in transforming obscure, fifth-year senior quarterbacks into prolific operatives.

He did it with Gerry Gdowski in 1989 and Keithen McCant last year. Squeezing the same success from Mike Grant might be a greater challenge. But, at least, Osborne has proven he can do it.

Colorado has not proven it can win a championship by passing — and no other Big Eight team has since 1971. Oklahoma has not proven since 1967 that it can have the injury-free season the Sooners will need to prevail.

Hence, the edge goes to Nebraska. It should be an interesting race. No other team would appear to have a chance to win the championship. But, while each of the Big Three appears weaker than a year ago, four and possibly all five of the other teams figure to be improved.

Kansas has an edge on Kansas State in a battle for the other first division berth and perhaps a bowl bid. A level behind will be Missouri, which will change its defense, Iowa State, which will change its offense, and Oklahoma State, which hopes getting off NCAA probation will start a change in its winless ways of last year.

The pivotal player in the race is Grant. Unlike Gdowski and McCant, who were unheralded and forgotten figures before finally getting their chance as fifth-year seniors, Grant was heralded and got his chance. He became a starter in 1990 but played himself out of the lineup and by the Citrus Bowl had disappeared from the depth chart.

Grant was redshirted last year, when McCant directed the Cornhuskers to a share of the title with Colorado. He broke his collarbone midway of spring practice.

Thus, besides gaining confidence, Grant must heal before he can become the efficient, no-frills quarterback Nebraska has exploited in recent years. Gdowski and McCant capitalized on their abilities and camouflaged their weaknesses. They played within themselves and were not asked to do more

BIG EIGHT FORECAST

1 — NEBRASKA
2 — COLORADO
3 — OKLAHOMA
4 — KANSAS
5 — KANSAS ST.
6 — MISSOURI
7 — IOWA ST.
8 — OKLAHOMA ST.

than they could do. The result: lots of plays that won games, almost no plays that lost games.

Grant will not have the luxury of one of the big-play makers that he was supposed to have. Tight end Johnny Mitchell, who would have been a junior this year, opted for the NFL draft, where he was the 15th player selected.

Losing Mitchell and a corps of starting wideouts and Grant's passing problems in 1990 will combine to put greater pressure on Nebraska to run.

No team is better equipped to cope with such a challenge. In alternating tailbacks Derek Brown and Calvin Jones, the Cornhuskers have the Big Eight's best running backs. They combined for 2,213 yards and 28 touchdowns last year.

The only question about them is which of the breakaway stars is best. Brown was unquestionably the best until he was injured and Jones seized upon his opportunity to run wild against Kansas, then mauled Oklahoma in a fourth quarter rally. Brown and Jones will split time this year behind a representative line.

Another advantage: Grant will have an opportunity to get early confidence and momentum against Nebraska's usual soft nonconference opening. This time it's Utah and Middle Tennessee.

Bill McCartney's latest change of offense at Colorado was influenced by his belief that a team can not win the national championship by relying predominantly on running. So, out with the option — that carried Colorado to the 1990 national championship — and in with a one-back formation and an emphasis on passing.

A gamble? Colorado is the Big Eight's most compelling proof of how rewarding it is to run in the Big Eight and how penalizing it can be to pass. They passed in McCartney's first three years and won only seven games. Then they embraced the Wishbone and became a national power.

That is a standard pattern in the Big Eight. In the last 28 years only one team (Nebraska's 1971 national champions) led the conference in passing and won the championship. In the last 44 years, the rushing champion won or shared the conference championship 32 times. In eight of the 12 years when the rushing champion did not win the title, the runner-up was Oklahoma or Nebraska.

The Buffs might overcome this pattern with talent. They have out-recruited Nebraska and OU in recent years and a succession of blue chip classes has given McCartney the potential to run and pass.

If the quarterback is Kordell Stewart, heralded recruit of 1991, or Vance Joseph, last year's crack backup, he will pass to a flock of speedy receivers, of whom Michael Westbrook might be the best, and hand off to one of the conference's better running backs, Lamont Warren.

An improved offensive line will enhance the Buffs' transition. But it might be 1993 before they acquire championship execution.

The link between defense and cham-

Round Robin Will Decide

There are three red-letter dates in the 1992 Big Eight Conference race. They are: Oct. 17, when Oklahoma plays at Colorado; Oct. 31, when Colorado plays at Nebraska, and Nov. 27, when Nebraska plays at Oklahoma.

If Nebraska is still a contender after that, the championship may not be determined until the Cornhuskers' finale with Kansas State in Tokyo on Dec. 5.

Although each of the three contenders plays one home game and one road game in their round robin, Nebraska would appear to have a slight advantage in scheduling.

The Cornhuskers have what is expected to be a relatively easy game at Missouri the week before they play Colorado at Boulder. The Cornhuskers play at Iowa State and then have an open date before playing Oklahoma at Norman.

The schedules of Oklahoma and Colorado present more timing challenges than Nebraska's.

Oklahoma plays Texas the week before meeting Colorado at Boulder. Traditionally, Oklahoma is emotionally flat the week after playing Texas. OU is almost always vulnerable the week after losing to Texas.

The Sooners lost to Colorado last year the week after losing to Texas and lost to Iowa State in 1990 the week after losing to the Longhorns. From 1977 through 1989, OU has lost six times to Texas and each time had a harrowing time winning the following week against unsuspecting opponents.

The timing of the OU-Colorado game definitely figures to be an advantage for Colorado. Timing of the Nebraska-OU game, the Sooners' season finale on the Friday after Thanksgiving, does not favor either team. But the home field favors OU — although Nebraska won three of its last five visits to Norman.

Colorado's make-or-break games are so close together, the Buffs will not have time to afford injuries. Colorado plays at Nebraska two weeks after playing OU in Boulder. The Buffs play at Missouri the week before meeting OU and meet Kansas State at Boulder the week before going to Nebraska.

Confidence should weigh in Colorado's favor in these critical games. The Buffs have not lost to either contender since 1988, going 3-0 versus Oklahoma and 2-0-1 against Nebraska.

A possible ambush date: Oct. 24, when Oklahoma plays at Kansas after back-to-back games with Texas and Colorado. This is a logical time for the Sooners to be vulnerable. They often have problems at Lawrence and the strongest KU team in a decade is expected to be unbeaten in conference play on that date. The Jayhawks could be playing for the Big Eight lead and a bowl.

Big Eight Championship List

Year	School	Record
1991	Nebraska	9-2-1
	Colorado	8-3-1
1990	Colorado	11-1-1
1989	Colorado	11-1
1988	Nebraska	11-2
1987	Oklahoma	11-1
1986	Oklahoma	11-1
1985	Oklahoma	10-1
1984	Oklahoma	10-2
	Nebraska	9-2-1
1983	Nebraska	12-1
1982	Nebraska	12-1
1981	Nebraska	9-3
1980	Oklahoma	10-2
1979	Oklahoma	11-1
1978	Nebraska	11-1
	Oklahoma	9-3
1977	Oklahoma	10-2
1976	Oklahoma State	9-3
	Colorado	8-4
	Oklahoma	9-2-1
1975	Nebraska	10-2
	Oklahoma	11-1
1974	Oklahoma	11-0
1973	Oklahoma	10-0-1
1972*	Nebraska	10-1-1
1971	Nebraska	13-0
1970	Nebraska	11-0-1
1969	Missouri	9-2
	Nebraska	9-2
1968	Kansas	9-2
	Oklahoma	7-4
1967	Oklahoma	10-1
1966	Nebraska	9-2
1965	Nebraska	10-1
1964	Nebraska	9-2
1963	Nebraska	10-1
1962	Oklahoma	8-3
1961	Colorado	9-2
1960	Missouri	11-0
1959	Oklahoma	7-3
1958	Oklahoma	10-1

* Oklahoma forfeited championship after player ruled ineligible.

Championships By School

28	Nebraska
26	Oklahoma
11	Missouri
3	Colorado
2	Kansas
1	Kansas St.
1	Oklahoma St.

pionships is more favorable to Colorado. The Buffs have the Big Eight's best linebackers, featuring Greg Biekert and Chad Brown, one of the best tackles in Leonard Renfro and a secondary loaded with speed and skill.

If Gary Gibbs did not have to replace a starter, Oklahoma might win the title it failed to win last year with a deeper and more experienced team. The Sooners may have more potential all-conference players than either Colorado or Nebraska.

Cale Gundy, coming off a stunning performance in the Gator Bowl, is the Big Eight's best passer. He will pass to improved receivers and be complemented by one of the league's better running backs, Earnest Williams. The defense has a candidate for player of the year in outside linebacker Reggie Barnes and experience or high promise at every position.

But the Sooners are precariously thin in both lines, running backs and secondary. And, they must rediscover how to win big games.

This should be the year Glen Mason's sound, patient building at Kansas produces a bowl-type record. It would have happened last year had KU held fourth quarter leads against K-State and Colorado.

The Jayhawks have a seasoned quarterback in Chip Hilleary, two of the Big Eight's best tackles — Dana Stubblefield on defense and Keith Loneker on offense — and the league's best kicker in Dan Eichloff. Big Eight teams are wall-to-wall in both punters and kickers, but Eichloff is the best in both categories and probably the best all purpose kicker in the country.

If converted fullback Maurice Douglas comes through at tailback, the Jayhawks should edge K-State.

Two-time Coach of the Year Bill Snyder thinks K-State could be better than last year's 7-4 team. But the Wildcats' inexperienced look at the skill positions became more pronounced when tailback Eric Gallon, who rushed for 1,102 yards last year, suffered a knee injury in spring practice that required major surgery. He is not expected to play until October.

Gallon's probable replacement will come from a fast but unproven cast. The Wildcats also have new receivers and a new quarterback. Their defense is the league's most experienced and led by linebacker Brooks Barta.

Missouri's Bob Stull, starting to hear grumbles after a three-year record of 9-23-1, should improve in the conference if a difficult nonconference schedule does not drain the Tigers.

Their offense, with record-setting passer Phil Johnson and fine receivers, anticipates improvement, because the league's worst running attack will be bolstered by the reinstatement of Mark Jackson, the school's first breakaway threat in several years.

Stull addressed Missouri's main problem — the nation's worst defense against (36 points, 505 yards per game) — by hiring a new coordinator, Don Lindsey, and giving him the green light to overhaul. The result should be considerably more speed and slight improvement.

Iowa State, which leads the Big Eight in returning starters with 16, conducted spring practice behind locked gates while Coach Jim Walden installed an option offense.

He got the idea last year when injuries stripped the Cyclones of quarterbacks and forced junking of a multiple offense and drafting of defensive back Kevin Caldwell to play quarterback. Bob Utter, one of the injured quarterbacks, is back to start but Walden will stick with the option.

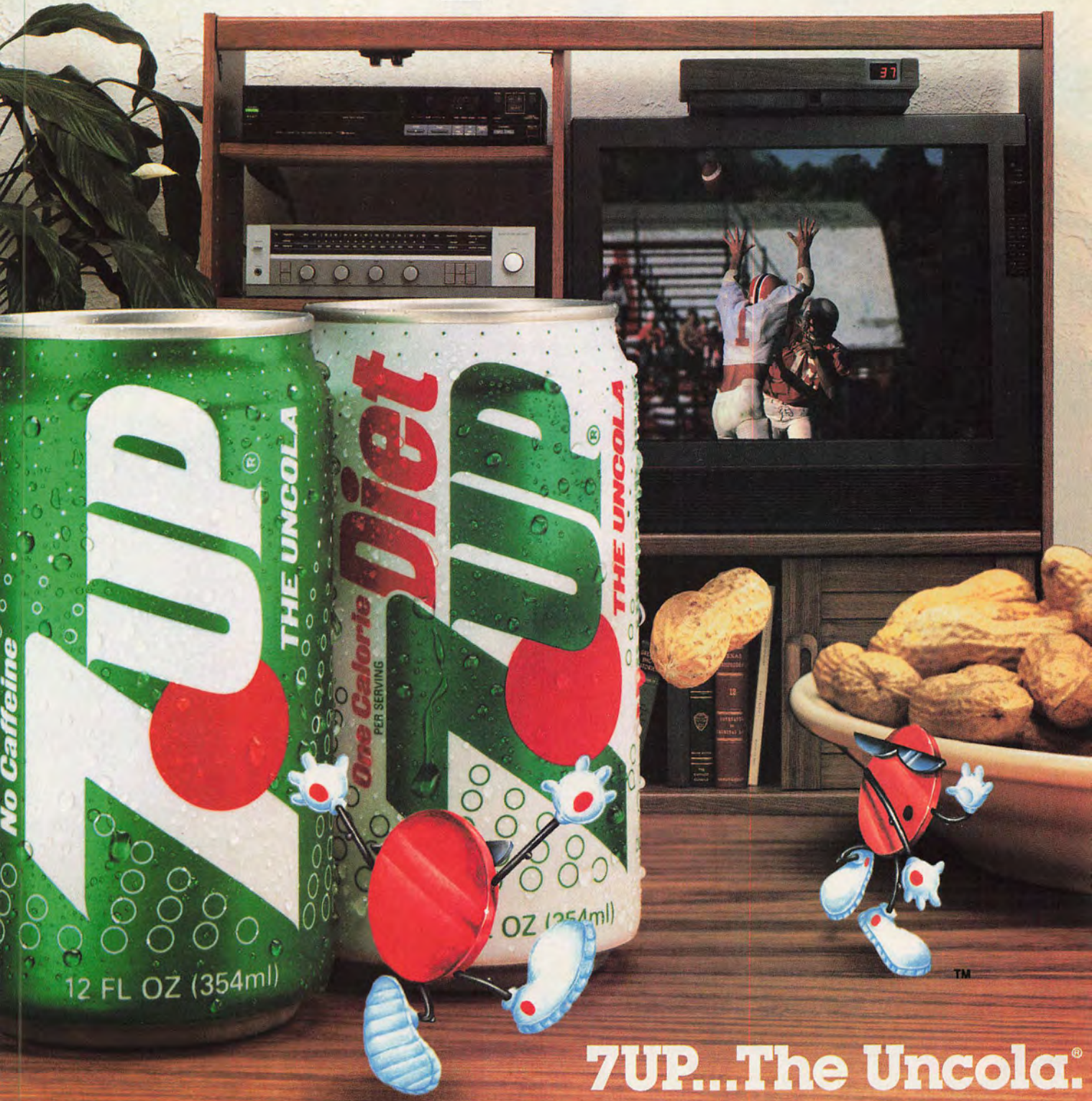
The only inexperienced area is the defensive line. The secondary boasts the league's best free safety, Mark DouBrava.

Oklahoma State will look to junior college quarterbacks — Derek Chapman or Andy Loveland — to improve an offense that ranked 105th nationally (12 touchdowns, 9.6 points per game) last year. A weak line will also be rebuilt with jucos.

Elsewhere, Coach Pat Jones' team is sufficiently equipped to break even in its nonconference schedule and perhaps win once or twice in league play. The Cowboys have the Big Eight's best pair of tiny players and potential stars in tailback Rafael Denson and wideout Bert Milliner.

The Cowboys' defensive line, led by end Jason Gildon, kept them in several games in last year's winless ordeal. Linebacking is expected to be significantly improved. But their secondary remains suspect. ■

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3
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NEBRASKA HUSKERS

I-back Duo Gives Nebraska Promise of Repeat Rushing Title

He was Big Eight Offensive Newcomer of the Year last season. He also made second team conference and *Associated Press* squads after rushing for a Nebraska freshman record 900 yards. A mark good enough to rank him fifth in freshman Big Eight history.

Expectations ran rampant because of the emergence of the so-called "man-child." Talk comparing the 5-foot-11, 210-pound redshirt freshman to former Husker greats like Jarvis Redwine, Mike Rozier and Roger Craig became almost commonplace.

But Calvin Jones doesn't want to hear such comparisons yet.

"I had a pretty good year, but those guys were really great," said the sophomore. "The reason they were great is because they did it every year. They were never satisfied. That's how I have to be now.

"I'm going to approach this year the same as I did last year. When called upon, I'll do the things I can."

Against Kansas last season, Jones got that first big call.

Starting I-back Derek Brown, who had already eclipsed the 1,000-yard rushing mark during the eight games prior, took a helmet shot near his eye late in the second quarter. Brown returned to the sideline and complained of having some blurred vision. So, Head Coach Tom Osborne sent in Jones.

Jones came in and caught a 4-yard pass from quarterback Keithen McCant. Prior to that catch, Jones had rushed for 367 yards and five touchdowns during the season.

After a 12-yard run by Jones up the middle two plays later, Brown tried one more time. The result was a 5-yard gain and a first down. But Brown felt he was not as effective as he wanted to be.

The Calvin Jones' show began.

On the next play, Jones took a pitch and scampered 3 yards into the endzone. He never slowed down. Jones went on to rush for a Nebraska record 294 yards and a school and Big Eight record six touchdowns.

"I can't believe it worked out like that," Jones later said.

But while Jones was showered with praise and Big Eight Player of the Week honors the following Monday, he was able to keep everything in perspective and heaped the praise back on everyone but himself.

"I didn't want people to forget what Derek had done during the weeks before," Jones said. "He was still the No. 1 back in my mind."

Together, the Derek and Calvin exhibition racked up 2,213 yards rushing, 28 touchdowns and 111 yards receiving on 13 catches during the course of the year.

And both return this season.

Brown (5-9, 185, jr.) rebounded from his eye injury and finished the season with 1,313 yards and 14 touchdowns en route to being named to the All-Big Eight first team.

As spring practice began, Osborne faced the problem of how to best utilize his double-barrel I-back attack without killing anyone's minutes.

The Huskers flirted with an additional passing game last season and were surprisingly successful. That the Huskers led the conference and nation in rushing offense with 353.2 yards a game was no surprise. Nebraska had claimed the Big Eight rushing title in seven of the nine previous years.

But to finish fourth in passing offense (153.3 yards a game) and first in total offense (third in the country), averaging 506.45 yards was simply amazing. Until last season, the only other time the Huskers led the conference in total offense was in 1978 when they averaged 501.4 yards a game.

Nebraska wanted to take a look at operating out of the one-back set more this spring. On the surface this seemed questionable considering it would eliminat the Brown and Jones duo in the backfield.

The result: Moved Brown out of the backfield and lined him up at wingback in the majority of the one-back sets. Wingback is not a position foreign to him. As a true freshman, Brown led the Husker backs in receptions with five for 75 yards and one touchdown, while playing in only eight games.

"Both Derek and Calvin are great runners, but they also are good receivers," Osborne said. "Right now we are looking at Derek playing wingback 25 percent of the time and I-back about 40 percent. Calvin will probably see more time at I-back, but they both should be on the field about 70 percent of the time.

"Derek has the speed and moves to be a good receiver. He's not a polished receiver, but is coming along. If we didn't have both of them, we'd be in a bad situation at I-back."

The Huskers started last season with four quality backs after Leodis Flowers left the squad in the spring because of personal problems. But when starter Scott Baldwin went down early with a shoulder injury, Osborne was left with only Brown, Jones and senior George Achola as serious contenders.

"It's great to have two good backs like Derek and Calvin," Osborne said, "but as much as we run the ball we've

Calvin Jones should be a powerful weapon in the Husker offensive arsenal.

Photo by William Lauer.

HUSKER DEPTH CHART

(following spring game/classifications are for 1992 fall semester) *indicates letters earned.

OFFENSE

SE	***	Tyrone Hughes	5-10	175	Sr
	*	Corey Dixon	5-8	155	Soph
LT	*	Lance Lundberg	6-4	300	Jr
		Joel Gesky	6-2	285	Soph
LG	*	Ken Mehlin	6-0	265	Jr
	**	Chris Zyzda	6-2	290	Sr
C	**	Jim Scott	6-2	265	Sr
	**	Terris Chorney	6-1	275	Sr
RG	***	Will Shields	6-1	305	Sr
		Joel Wilks	6-3	270	Soph
RT	*	Rob Zatechka	6-5	315	Soph
	*	Zach Wiegert	6-5	310	Soph
TE	***	William Washington	6-2	260	Sr
	**	Mike Vedral	6-3	230	Sr
QB		Tony Veland	6-1	190	Fr
	**	Mike Grant	6-3	205	Sr
FB	***	Lance Lewis	6-2	225	Sr
		Cory Schlesinger	6-0	220	Soph
IB	*	Calvin Jones	5-11	210	Soph
	**	Derek Brown	5-9	185	Jr
WB	*	Vincent Hawkins	5-11	210	Sr
	*	Abdul Muhammad	5-9	155	Soph
K	**	Byron Bennett	6-1	180	Jr
	*	Tom Sieler	6-5	195	Soph

DEFENSE

LOLB	***	Travis Hill	6-2	240	Sr
	***	David White	6-2	250	Sr
LT	**	John Parrella	6-5	290	Sr
	*	Kevin Ramaekers	6-4	285	Jr
MG	**	David Noonan	6-3	275	Jr
		Bill Humphrey	6-2	260	Jr
RT	**	Jamie Liewer	6-4	270	Sr
	*	Bruce Moore	6-6	240	Jr
ROLB	**	Trev Alberts	6-4	230	Jr
	***	David White	6-2	250	Sr
SLB	**	Mike Anderson	6-2	235	Jr
	*	Troy Branch	6-0	235	Jr
WLB	*	Eddie Stewart	6-0	205	Soph
	*	Doug Colman	6-3	225	Soph
LCB	*	Kenny Wilhite	5-8	195	Sr
	*	Mike Heins	5-10	185	Jr
RCB	**	John Reece	6-0	200	Jr
	*	Lorenzo Brinkley	6-0	195	Jr
SS	**	Steve Carmer	6-2	210	Sr
	*	Ernie Beler	5-11	200	Jr
FS	***	Tyrone Byrd	6-0	180	Sr
	*	Troy Dumas	6-3	205	Soph
P	***	Mike Stigge	6-2	190	Sr
	**	Byron Bennett	6-1	180	Jr

QUICK LOOK BACK

1991 RECORD

9-2-1

Utah State	(W) 59-28
Colorado State	(W) 71-14
Washington	(L) 36-21
at Arizona State	(W) 18-9
at Oklahoma State	(W) 49-15
Kansas State	(W) 38-31
Missouri	(W) 63-6
at Colorado	(T) 19-19
at Kansas	(W) 59-23
Iowa State	(W) 38-13
Oklahoma	(W) 19-14
vs Miami	(L) 22-0

CONFERENCE FINISH:
First, Tie

TOTAL OFFENSE (Conf):
506.45 yards (1st)

TOTAL DEFENSE (Conf):
342.9 yards (4th)

STARTERS RETURNING:
Offense — 6
Defense — 7
Specialists — 2

found three or four are needed to get us through the season. We're a little thin right now and that concerns us."

The Huskers may have to give some serious looks to one of the five high school running backs that will arrive in August in order to add the depth needed.

The fullback spot seems to be in slightly better shape with senior Lance Lewis (6-0, 220) returning. Lewis, who rushed for 196 yards and a 7.8 yard average, was hampered with a knee injury this spring, but will be good to go in the fall. Backing him is a talented tandem in Andre McDuffy (6-0, 210, jr.) and redshirt sophomore Cory Schlesinger (6-0, 215). McDuffy has the speed to play I-back, but looks more comfortable at fullback. Schlesinger was a solid surprise during the spring.

While the shifting of Brown and Jones caused the most speculation throughout the spring, the lack of a quarterback proved to be the biggest area of concern.

For the fourth straight year, Nebraska will enter fall drills, with no clear-cut choice at quarterback.

In 1988, Steve Taylor returned for his third and final season. Since then three different signal callers have been given the nod — Gerry Gdowski (1989), Mickey Joseph (1990) and Keithen McCant (1991).

Most figured fifth-year senior Mike Grant (6-3, 205), would be the fourth, one-year starter going into the spring. He has been a spot starter throughout his career and began the 1990 season at the helm. But in the season opener against Baylor, he suffered a knee injury and gave way to Joseph. He returned midway through the season, and reclaimed his job, but looked slow and inconsistent.

Grant had said waiting on his chance to get the starting job was like waiting on a wedding and never having it materialize.

The wedding was set for this spring, but when Grant suffered a hairline fracture to his collarbone in the third week of practice, he put the vows (or singal calling) on hold. Osborne said Grant, who did not return to practice, will be the No. 1 quarterback in the fall.

But one would have to speculate that Grant could have trouble holding onto the job after the performance of redshirt freshman Tony Veland (6-1, 210).

Veland, who began the spring sixth on the depth chart, had been working

with the No. 2 offense before moving up. He appears to have the tools to run either the option offense or the passing attack. While his speed is his biggest asset (4.7), Veland showed improvement on his passing and was able to bounce back from mistakes.

Behind Grant and Veland are talented backups (or starters) in senior walkons Joel Cornwell (6-0, 180) and John McMillen (6-0, 165) and sophomores Matt Jones (5-11, 190) and Todd Gragnano (6-0, 200).

The receiving corps took a sound blow losing three starters in Jon Bostick, Nate Turner and Johnny Mitchell, who was the 15th player taken in the NFL draft.

Tyrone Hughes (5-10, 175, sr.) was a solid backup to Bostick last season before breaking his wrist in the middle of the season. Hughes was able to continue his kickoff return duties (he ranked as high as third nationally in 1990 with a 14.6 average return) while wearing a cast, but couldn't catch passes.

The solution involved moving him to cornerback so not to waste his great speed (4.44). Hughes played at corner in the Orange Bowl, but has moved back to split end. Backup Corey Dixon (5-8, 160, soph.) doesn't have a lot of experience, but has a chance to make things happen after the catch.

Abdul Muhammad (5-11, 175, soph.) and Vincent Hawkins (5-11, 210, sr.) saw plenty of action last season at wingback and in the passing offense and should be able to build on the experience.

The unwanted departure of sophomore Mitchell, hurt the tight end spot, but William Washington (6-2, 255, sr.) will now get a chance to contend for conference and national honors. Washington had only one reception last season as a spot starter, but it's his blocking skills which are coveted.

One of the brightest aspects of this offense has to be the mammoth offensive line.

Back are three part-time starters and two others who saw considerable action. Weighing an average of 288.2 pounds a man, the line is anchored by two-time All-Big Eight right guard Will Shields (6-1, 280, sr.). Shields was a second team All-American last season and is one of the country's best this year.

The other starting veterans are left tackle Lance Lundberg (6-4, 300, jr.) and center Jim Scott (6-2, 265, sr.). Right tackle will probably be held by sophomore Zach Wiegert (6 5, 310) with Brenden Stai (6-4, 285, jr.), Ken Mehlin (6-0, 265, jr.) and Chris Zyzda (6-2, 290, sr.) competing for left guard.

The Husker defense was suspect last season after losing six starters. Against lesser opponents like Utah State and Colorado State, they were able to stop any serious scoring landslides, but they were not in command. They paid the price against Washington when the Huskies drilled the Black Shirts for 618 yards. It was the third-highest total allowed in school history.

Nebraska found itself ranked 92 nationally in total defense before rebounding to 49th before the end of the season.

Seven starters returned this spring. In an effort to halt the yardage losses of a year ago, the Huskers worked on a new defensive alignment. While they did not use it in the Spring Game, the Huskers utilized the "Bear" during their 15 practices. The "Bear" resembles the Chicago Bears' alignment they used in the mid-'80s. More of an attacking defense, eight men line up front and hence results one-on-one matchups, taking some of the pressure off the middle guard.

Less pressure down the middle will be beneficial since the sole loss on the line comes at middle guard. David Noonan (6-3, 275, jr.) is slated to fill the void left by three-year starter Pat Engelbert. Noonan, a converted defensive tackle, has slimmed down and looks good at the spot.

Both of the tackle spots are in capable hands with Kevin Ramaekers (6-4, 285, jr.) and John Parrella (6-5, 290, sr.) returning at left and right tackle, respectively.

Ramaekers is still recovering from a knee injury suffered during winter conditioning and did not take part in the spring. But Osborne feels he will be healthy by fall and resume at the left spot. In his absence, Jamie Liewer (6-4, 270, sr.) and Terry Connealy (6-5, 270, soph.) filled in.

Parrella racked up 56 tackles last season and was having a great spring until he dislocated a finger in drills. Bruce Moore (6-6, 240, jr.) and Matt Hilman (6-3, 255, jr.) add depth, but there will be a glaring lack of experience up front if the starters are not healthy.

With the line suspect, the strength of the defense will have to be the linebackers. Three starters return and there are solid backups.

The loss of Mike Petko hurts at strong-side linebacker, but Nebraska coaches feel Darren Williams (6-1, 255, jr.) has a chance to fill the void. Williams racked up 34 tackles a year ago as a backup. The weak-side spot will be manned by junior Mike Anderson (6-2, 235, jr.) who recorded 80 tackles last year.

A three-man rotation at outside linebacker could give offenses fits; Travis Hill (6-2, 240, sr.), David White (6-2, 250, sr.) and Trev Alberts (6-4, 230, jr.) all return. Left-outside 'backer Hill led the team in tackles for losses with 9.5. The ROLBs are coming off a year in which Alberts had 53 tackles (nine for losses) and White 42 (six for losses).

Lacking only spots to play them, David Leader (6-2, 215, sr.) and Lance Gray (6-1, 220, jr.) should get their fair share of downs.

The secondary lost only two of 13 lettermen and could be productive if nagging injuries clear up.

Kenny Wilhite (5-8, 195, sr.) missed some of spring practice recovering from a knee injury suffered against Kansas. In his absence, John Reece (6-0, 200, jr.) moved into left corner. Wilhite will have a fight on his hands in the fall; Reece came on strong during the spring.

Vernon Powell (5-10, 165, jr.) and Mike Heins (5-10, 185, jr.) alternated at right corner, but Powell was sidelined some with a recurring groin pull.

Last season, strong safety Steve Carmer (6-2, 210, sr.) became the first defensive back ever to lead the Huskers in tackles with 87. A solid spring indicated he hasn't lost a step from last season. Late season surprise Ernie Beler (5-11, 200, jr.) will be the backup, despite having a very productive spring.

Tyrone Byrd (6-0, 180, sr.) was an honorable mention all-league pick a year ago and returns to claim his job at free safety. Byrd was the Huskers' third-leading tackler with 71.

Both specialists return to give Nebraska solid footwork. Punter Mike Stigge (6-2, 190, sr.) averaged 42.1 yards a boot during his All-Big Eight junior season. Also expected to have a big year, junior Byron Bennett (6-1, 180, jr.) connected on 45-of-48 extra points and 11-of-18 field goals. He was the sixth-leading scorer in the league at 7.09 points per game. ■

COLORADO Buffaloes

McCartney Gambles with Offensive Overhaul

Down 10-12 in the fourth quarter with only four seconds left on the clock, Colorado's placekicker Jim Harper lined up for a game-winning 25-yard field goal.

The rather diminutive crowd in Lewis Field was going crazy. Even sports network ESPN switched live to Stillwater, Okla. Oklahoma State was seconds away from its first win of the 1991 season. The Buffs were about to be knocked out of the Big Eight race. The Cowboys were 0-7-1 going into the game.

Starting quarterback Darian Hagan was out of the game and the Buffs had already had a field goal blocked minutes before. Holder Duke Tobin (6-1, 200, jr.), a backup quarterback, took the low snap. But, instead of placing it, he peeled off to his right. The Cowboys rushed everyone and tight end Christian Fauria was wideopen for the strike. Twenty yards down field Fauria rushed into the endzone untouched and Colorado won 16-12.

After the game, OSU Head Coach Pat Jones was asked about the risky play. "You don't make that kind of call unless you are a gambler or have a 15-year contract."

Some called Colorado Head Coach Bill McCartney crazy, others labeled him a genius.

Regardless, McCartney pulled off that gutsy call.

And a month later, he did the unthinkable by revamping a slightly-worn offense one week prior to the 1991 Blockbuster Bowl. Maybe revamped is too soft a word, try scrapped and rebuilt.

McCartney's actions would surely have met more resistance had he not had success in 1985.

In that year, third-year coach McCartney decided to switch the offense to the Wishbone. The year before the Buffs had averaged 230 yards passing and 60 on the ground, finishing 1-10. In 1985 they passed less (42.5 yards a game), but increased the ground attack to 259.8 yards and finished 7-5. It marked the most wins at Colorado in seven years and earned Colorado the NCAA's most improved team award.

One overlooked aspect going into the '91 bowl was that the offensive change actually was started in March, prior to the season and not five days before.

The 1991 season had not been a good one for the defending co-National Champions from Boulder. Before the Buffs began Big Eight play, they found themselves 2-2. A year before, they entered league play 3-1-1, but this included a tie with Tennessee (31-31), a loss at Illinois (23-22) and wins over Stanford (21-17), Texas (29-22) and Washington (20-14). Last year the wins were decent (Wyoming, 30-13 and Minnesota, 58-0), but the losses came against Baylor (16-14) and Stanford (28-21).

Not to take anything away from either club, Colorado just didn't have that hungry, defense-wrecking offense that had dominated in 1990.

Colorado rebounded with wins over Missouri, Oklahoma and Kansas State on the road, but still the fire was missing. After a tie (which in all honesty should have been a loss) with Nebraska, and sneak-by wins against winless OSU, Kansas and Iowa State, Colorado found itself tied with Nebraska for the Big Eight crown, an honor the Buffs had claimed outright the two years prior.

An 8-3-1 record was somehow good enough to get the Buffs to Miami to face Alabama in the Blockbuster Bowl.

McCartney decided it was time for change. Offensive Coordinator Gary Barnett took a coaching job at Northwestern and Receivers Coach Les Steckel was moved up. Steckel favored the one-back set in part because it was the offense he taught as a coach for the Minnesota Vikings and New England Patriots.

It was announced during the first team meeting prior to the bowl, that the offense was going to change from an option attack to the modern one-back formation. Change an offense in five days? To think McCartney could pull this off was ludicrous.

With senior quarterback Darian Hagan at the helm, the Buffs went to the air. Colorado was in the game until the third quarter when the Crimson Tide outscored CU 13-7. Alabama went on to a 30-25 victory.

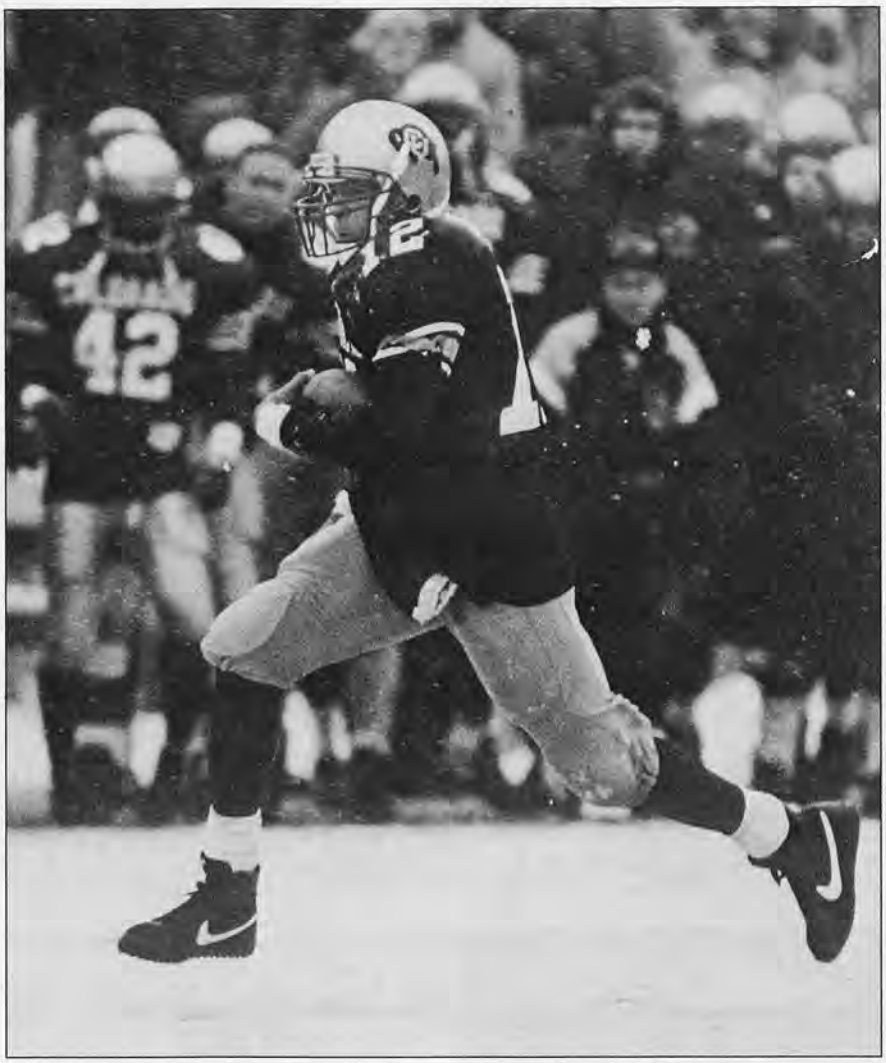
Even with the loss, the Buffs increased their passing. They rang up 210 yards while Hagan connected on 11-of-30. The Buffs had only averaged 144.5 yards during the season. But the price tag of their passing success was minus 11-yards rushing, after a season average of 227.2 yards on the ground.

"As it resulted, we were pretty inept," McCartney said. "That comes with the territory. I thought going into the game that it was the way to win. However, Alabama blitzed us more than they had other teams.

"We couldn't hold up under it. It took us out of what we wanted to do. But the fact is, this team is dedicated to a wholesale approach to the passing game. It's not a question of whether we'll do it now, because we're in it. How well we're going to do it remains to be seen."

The question going into spring, was who would operate this new-look offense.

With Hagan gone, the duties were put on the shoulders of junior Vance Joseph (5-10, 195) and sophomore Kordell Stewart (6-2, 205). Going into the fall, Joseph, brother of former



A healthy Lamont Warren will spell big trouble for defenses.
Photo by Brian Lewis.

Husker quarterback Mickey Joesph, looks to be the leader. Joseph took over for an injured Hagan during the year and connected on 19-of-37 for 260 yards while leading the Buffs to two, come-from-behind wins over Kansas and OSU.

"Everyone has had a good attitude about the new offense," Joseph said. "There were obvious changes and everyone looked more comfortable. The receivers ran better routes, the line blocked better and the quarterbacks threw better. It was weird to see everyone catch on and not be negative."

The Buffs took the development slow and patiently added only six plays during the first week of their 15 spring practices. A flanker spot was added next to the tight end and a wingback spot created. The fullback was all but phased out except in short-yardage situations.

The second week of spring, four or five more plays were added. The offense had more motion and against the No. 2 defense, was more effective than it had been since the OU game in October.

"The option game wasn't made for striking," Joseph said. "It was made for a long-drive offense. When you're down by two touchdowns, it's hard to come back if you can't throw the ball.

"This offense helps us get back in the game so we don't have to drive and drive, using up the clock."

With the passing offense, the question has to be: Is there enough depth at the receiving spots to handle all the new work? Answer: Adequate depth, less experience.

Charles Johnson (6-0, 185, jr.), Michael Westbrook (6-4, 210, soph.) and Erik Mitchell (5-10, 160, soph.) have some game experience which will be vital in getting the offense off on the right foot.

Johnson, who saw action in all 11 games and started three, had 13 grabs for 216 yards in the predominant rushing attack. Westbrook led the team with 309 yards on 22 receptions, while Mitchell saw action in 10 games but only had one grab for 2 yards. Don't be deceived, though, Mitchell possesses 4.3 speed and if the passes come his way, he could be a big factor.

The tight end spot is in basically the same category as the wideouts. Sean Embree (6-4, 235, jr.) and Fauria return, but only have five receptions between them.

With the offensive switch, it seems that the running backs have been all but forgotten. Lamont Warren (6-0, 185) was the third leading freshman rusher last year with 830 yards. But shoulder surgery kept him out of spring drills. James Hill (6-0, 210, jr.) and Scott Phillips (6-2, 220, jr.) used the time to carve a place for themselves after moving from the all-but-decimated fullback spot.

One big plus for the Buffs is four of five starters return on a line that spent most of the spring adjusting to pass protection. Bryan Stoltenberg (6-2, 270, fr.) has had to grow up in a hurry to fill the void left by All-American Jay Leeuwenburg at center. The tackle and guard spots return one-year starters in tackles Derek West (6-8, 280, soph.) and Jim Hansen (6-6, 280, sr.), and guards Roger Ivey (6-3, 280, jr.) and Craig Anderson (6-4, 285, jr.). This group is young, but showed potential last year. The No. 2 line is made up of much of the same potential, but very little experience.

While the offense sputtered last season, the defense kept this team in the polls and atop the conference chart. As a group, they finished second in total defense (28th nationally), allowing only 321.4 yards a game. If anything, even with three lost starters, the defense looks like it can improve.

Marcellous Elder (6-5, 295, sr.) and Leonard Renfro (6-4, 280, jr.) return at right and left tackle. Renfro was an All-Big Eight pick last season while leading the line with 78 tackles and seven sacks. Elder, who had 32 tackles, will be pushed again in the fall by junior Brian Dyet (6-6, 260) who nearly came away with the starting job in the spring.

All-American Joel Steed is gone at noseguard, but junior Jeff Brunner (6-2, 265) has the ability to make the position still dangerous. Brunner made 17 stops as a backup to Steed last year.

The linebacking area is the strength

BUFFALO DEPTH CHART

(following spring game/classifications are for 1992 fall semester) *indicates letters earned

OFFENSE

FL		Erik Mitchell	5-10	160	Soph
		T.J. Cunningham	6-0	185	Fr
TE	*	Christian Fauria	6-4	225	Soph
	*	Sean Embree	6-4	235	Jr
LT	*	Derek West	6-8	280	Soph
		Corey Smith	6-3	265	Soph
LG	*	Roger Ivey	6-3	280	Jr
	*	Clint Moore	6-4	285	Soph
C		Bryan Stolenberg	6-2	270	Fr
		Tony Berti	6-6	255	Soph
RG	*	Craig Anderson	6-4	285	Jr
	*	Jason Perkins	6-4	255	Sr
RT	**	Jim Hansen	6-6	280	Sr
		Chad Hammond	6-4	275	Fr
WB	*	Michael Westbrook	6-4	210	Soph
		Jack Keys	5-10	165	Sr
SE	*	Charles Johnson	6-0	185	Jr
		Blake Anderson	6-1	180	Soph
QB	*	Vance Joseph	5-10	195	Jr
	*	Kordell Stewart	6-2	205	Soph
TB	**	James Hill	6-0	210	Jr
	*	Scott Phillips	6-2	220	Jr
K		Pat Blottiaux	6-0	220	Sr
	*	Mitch Berger	6-3	215	Jr

DEFENSE

OLB	*	Ron Woolfork	6-3	235	Jr
		Daryl Price	6-5	245	Fr
LT	***	Marcellous Elder	6-5	295	Sr
	**	Brian Dyet	6-6	260	Jr
NT	**	Jeff Brunner	6-2	265	Jr
		Sam Rogers	6-3	240	Jr
RT	**	Leonard Renfro	6-4	280	Jr
		Kerry Hicks	6-6	250	Fr
OLB	***	Chad Brown	6-4	235	Sr
		William Polk	6-2	225	Jr
ILB	***	Greg Biekert	6-3	230	Sr
		Norm Barnett	6-2	245	Soph
ILB	*	Ted Johnson	6-4	230	Soph
	*	Jon Knutson	6-4	240	Soph
LCB	***	Deon Figures	6-1	195	Sr
	*	Ryan Thomas	6-0	180	Soph
SS	**	Dwayne Davis	6-2	205	Jr
	**	Greg Lindsey	6-1	200	Jr
FS	*	Chris Hudson	5-10	195	Soph
		Tim Ross	6-2	200	Fr
RCB	***	Ronnie Bradford	5-11	185	Sr
		Dennis Collier	5-9	195	Jr
P	*	Mitch Berger	6-3	215	Jr
		Justin Blake	5-11	175	Soph

QUICK LOOK BACK

1991 RECORD

8-3-1

Wyoming	(W) 30-13
Baylor	(L) 16-14
at Stanford	(L) 28-21
Missouri	(W) 55-7
at Oklahoma	(W) 34-17
at Kansas State	(W) 10-0
Nebraska	(t) 19-19
at Oklahoma State	(W) 16-12
Kansas	(W) 30-24
at Iowa State	(W) 17-14
vs Alabama	(L) 30-25

CONFERENCE FINISH:
First, Tie

TOTAL OFFENSE (Conf):
371.64 (4th)

TOTAL DEFENSE (Conf):
321.4 (2nd)

STARTERS RETURNING:
Offense — 6
Defense — 8
Specialists — 1

of the team and may prove to be the best quartet in the nation. All four starters return with two seniors, and a sophomore and junior.

Captaining the squad is inside-backer Greg Biekert (6-3, 230, sr.), leader in tackles for two seasons. A first-team, all-conference pick, Biekert had 78 solo tackles and has 304 for his career.

"This spring we worked on getting the blitz more effective and tried to utilize a tougher man coverage package," Biekert said. "We were a typical bend-but-not-break defense last year. We gave up a lot of yards, but kept the scores down. This defense has a chance to surprise a lot of people."

Ted Johnson (6-4, 230, soph.) and Jon Knutson (6-4, 240, soph.) both spent time at the position last season, but Johnson got the nod during the spring.

The outside spots will consist of Chad Brown (6-4, 235, sr.) and Ron Woolfork (6-3, 235, jr.). Brown moved from an inside to an outside spot last season and had success racking up 125 tackles. Woolfork scored 78 tackles, but was second in the league with 13 sacks.

The secondary suffered heavily with the graduation of free safety Greg Thomas and the dismissal of strong safety Eric Hamilton. Adding salt to the wound, reserves Tate Nelson and Julian Hayward decided to not return leaving a glaring lack of depth at the safety spot. Stepping up were Dwayne Davis (6-2, 205, jr.) and Greg Lindsey (6-1, 200, jr.) at free and Chris Hudson (5-10, 195, soph) at the strong spot. Between the three are only 25 tackles from a year ago with Hudson chipping in 22. There could be some anxious moments here early in the fall.

The corner positions are in better shape with the return of veterans Deon Figures (6-1, 195, sr.) and Ronnie Bradford (5-11, 185, sr.) at left and right respectively. Figures had 39 tackles, while Bradford racked up 26.

If the secondary can stabilize early and injuries don't compound the problems in the offensive backfield, McCartney may yet have another of his gambles pay big dividends. ■

A legitimate Butkus Award contender, Greg Biekert will be closing in on the Colorado all-time tackle record this season.

Photo by Mark D. Brodie.


19
COLORADO
19


SOONERS
20

OKLAHOMA SOONERS

Williams' Return Bolsters Talented Backfield

Facing fourth-and-seven on his own 35, Cale Gundy scrambled to his left and hit a wide-open Earnest Williams coming off a block.

With a quick move to the inside, Williams picked up 10 yards before being dragged down from behind. Gundy was intercepted on the next play, and the drive died. But with only 4:05 remaining and the score favoring Colorado 34-17, the game was technically over.

The loss put Oklahoma at 4-2 on the season (they had lost a heartbreaker the week before in the annual Red River War with Texas), but it did not mean the end of the season. The Sooners regrouped and won five of their next six, including the dramatic 48-14 win over Virginia in the Gator Bowl.

While the Sooners were able to use the Colorado loss as a motivational tool to prime for the final stretch, Williams viewed it differently.

His late reception would be his final as a Sooner in 1991.

Williams, a native of Colorado, carried the ball five times against the Buffs for 17 yards in limited action in the second half. Workhorse Mike Gaddis handled most of the running duties picking up 120 yards on 17 carries. Viewing his lack of playing time as a slight handed down by the Sooner coaching staff, Williams quit the team and left school. Many speculated Williams would transfer to Colorado.

However, months later, Head Coach Gary Gibbs received a call from Williams asking for another chance.

"Over the course of the season, Earnest had to make some decisions," Gibbs said. "He contacted us and talked to our people and determined that this was the best place for him. He wanted to be part of our program and our family.

"We're not holding anything against Earnest."

Williams was reinstated to the team and University as the spring semester began in January, 1992. Because he withdrew from his fall classes instead of just leaving, Williams didn't receive failing grades in any of his classes. Taking 16 credit hours in the spring, Williams hopes to have passed 24 credit hours by fall so he will be eligible to play.

"I did something I shouldn't have because I thought about me and not the team," Williams said. "I was just young and impatient about not playing as much as I thought I should've. It was kind of spontaneous and it was stupid."

When spring drills began March 27, Williams (5-11, 190) got his second chance. He began as the No. 3 tailback behind senior Dewell Brewer (5-9, 203) and sophomore Billy McDade (5-11, 194).

"I never dismissed Earnest; he decided to leave," Gibbs said. "The door was left open because we didn't slam it."

Williams came charging back through the door during the spring, giving his every effort even in the most mundane drills. He was just another freshman trying to make an impression. Slacking off wouldn't get the job done. Finishing the drills with a 132-yard performance in the Varsity-Alumni Game, Williams vaulted to the No. 1 slot at tailback.

"My teammates welcomed me back, but I had to earn their respect," the junior said. "Nothing was handed to me and I just worked hard. Coach gave me a second chance and I'm not going to let anyone down. It was guys like Dewell that pushed me harder and I guess that's what being in the Sooner family is all about."

Brewer, while overlooked by many, not only helped Williams, but also played exceptionally well during the spring. Last season, Brewer entered the fall as the No. 1 tailback before injuring his knee. His departure opened the door for both Williams and Gaddis.

Joining Williams and Brewer in the backfield will be senior fullback Kenyon Rasheed. Rasheed (5-10, 228) is a powerful back with tailback speed. He had excellent scrimmages with a spring best 72 yards on six carries in the first one.

"Both Brewer and Williams are awfully good backs," said Offensive Coordinator Larry Coker. "Earnest not only had a good final scrimmage, but has had an excellent spring. Dewell has bulked up some and has made some exciting plays from scrimmage. He is also blocking really well.

"We've got a very competitive, but good situation at tailback."

Now healthy, Brewer should split time with Williams in the Sooners' slightly revamped offensive set which will mainly operate out of a one-back formation.

Even before the Big Eight bowl record performance of 357 yards passing last December, OU had been working on new offensive schemes to better utilize the talents of Gundy and the score of returning receivers.

This spring, with the addition of Receivers Coach Clarence James, Gibbs put the squad through various scrimmages utilizing the formations and was pleased with what they've been able to accomplish so far.

Earnest Williams is a durable back who can also make things happen after the catch.

Photo by Greg Phillips.

SOONER DEPTH CHART

(following spring game/classifications are for 1992 fall semester) *indicates letters earned.

OFFENSE

SE	*	Albert Hall	6-1	175	Soph
	***	Tink Collins	5-9	174	Sr
LT	*	Paul Moriarty	6-5	287	Sr
	*	Tim Vitito	6-4	315	Soph
LG	*	Broderick Roberson	6-2	281	Soph
		Milton Overton	6-1	265	Fr
C	**	Brent Koontz	6-4	258	Jr
	*	Matt Wilson	6-3	256	Soph
RG	*	Jeff Resler	6-2	260	Soph
	**	Jason Keith	6-5	271	Sr
RT		Jason Comer	6-4	285	Fr
	*	Chris Watkins	6-9	326	Sr
TE	***	Joey Mickey	6-5	269	Sr
	**	Rickey Brady	6-4	236	Jr
QB	**	Cale Gundy	6-0	189	Jr
	***	Steve Collins	6-0	205	Sr
TB	*	Earnest Williams	5-11	190	Jr
	***	Dewell Brewer	5-9	203	Sr
FB	***	Kenyon Rasheed	5-10	228	Sr
	**	Corey Johnson	5-10	197	Jr
FL	**	Corey Warren	5-11	203	Jr
		JaJuan Penny	6-0	185	Fr
K	*	Scott Blanton	6-1	210	Soph
	***	Brad Reddell	6-2	195	Sr

DEFENSE

LOLB	***	Trey Tippens	6-3	235	Sr
		Aubrey Beavers	6-4	234	Jr
LE	*	Greg Wilkins	6-4	280	Soph
	*	Corey Wilson	6-2	229	Jr
NG	*	Rickey Wren	6-1	263	Jr
		Chuck Langston	6-3	260	Fr
RE	**	Russell Allen	6-6	268	Jr
	*	Ben Cavil	6-1	280	Soph
ROLB	***	Reggie Barnes	6-1	218	Sr
		Brent DeQuasie	6-4	205	Fr
SLB	**	Mike Coats	6-0	232	Jr
	*	Bryan Gorka	6-0	226	Soph
WLB		Mario Freeman	6-0	208	Fr
		Terry Collier	6-1	189	Fr
LC	**	Darnell Walker	5-8	166	Sr
		Gerald Farley	5-10	178	Soph
SS	*	John Anderson	5-10	190	Jr
	*	Russell Jones	5-10	184	Soph
FS	**	Drew Christmon	5-9	196	Jr
		Maylon Wesley	5-11	175	Fr
RC	*	William Shankle	6-0	189	Sr
		Darius Johnson	5-11	170	Fr
P	***	Brad Reddell	6-2	195	Sr
	*	Scott Blanton	6-1	210	Soph

QUICK LOOK BACK

1991 RECORD

9-3

North Texas	(W) 40-2
Utah State	(W) 55-21
Virginia Tech	(W) 27-17
at Iowa State	(W) 29-8
vs Texas	(L) 10-7
Colorado	(L) 34-17
Kansas	(W) 41-3
Kansas State	(W) 28-7
at Missouri	(W) 56-16
Oklahoma State	(W) 21-6
at Nebraska	(L) 19-14
vs Virginia	(W) 48-14

CONFERENCE FINISH:
Third

TOTAL OFFENSE (Conf):
367.91 yards (5th)

TOTAL DEFENSE (Conf):
285.8 yards (1st)

STARTERS RETURNING:
Offense — 6
Defense — 3
Specialists — 2

The one problem was no Gundy during drills, and that muddied the picture somewhat.

Gundy (playing baseball), was replaced by Steve Collins (6-0, 205, sr.) on the No. 1 offense. Doug Switzer (6-3, 196, fr.), a walkon (and son of Barry) handled the No. 2 squad.

Collins, a part-time starter for the last two years, took most of the reps and seemed to handle the new-look offense. The option is still his strong point, but he has come along in his passing abilities.

"Not having Cale in here probably hindered us somewhat in what we wanted to do this spring, but I think we can overcome the setback," Coker said. "I don't think we can just plug him in. There are some things you would've liked to see him involved with and it would've helped our entire offensive picture without question.

"The thing we tried to do was give Collins a lot of work, which we did, and try to run the same offense. We didn't gear things around Steve's talents, but what we're going to do in the fall."

What's going to happen in the fall will have as much to do with Gundy and Collins as it will the quality receivers the Sooners return.

The entire receiving corps entered drills with expectations of a chance to showcase their talents.

Joey Mickey (6-5, 269, sr.) returns at tight end along with much improved blocker and receiver Ricky Brady (6-4, 236, jr.). Mickey had only 13 grabs last year, but pulled in five for two touchdowns in the pass happy bowl game.

OU will have no problem finding receivers out of the flanker position. Four quality pass catchers had great springs.

Last year's starter, Corey Warren (5-11, 203, jr.) was the Sooners' leading receiver with 26 grabs. In the Gator Bowl, he had a game-high five grabs for 110 yards. Moving from cornerback to receiver, Albert Hall (6-1, 175, soph.) averaged 20.4 yards a catch. Probably the biggest surprise was the emergence of freshman JaJuan Penny (6-0, 185, fr.). Clarence James said Penny, "Came on in leaps and bounds."

The big question going into spring was lack of depth and experience on the offensive line. Assistant Head Coach Merv Johnson, who has been with the program since 1979, felt this was the "greenest bunch and was by far the biggest concern during the

spring."

The only returners were right guard Jeff Resler (6-2, 260, soph.) and converted left tackle Paul Moriarty (6-5, 287, sr.), who moved from last year's position of left guard. OU was further hampered by the loss of senior tackle Chris Watkins (6-9, 326) to back injury.

Milton Overton (6-1, 265, fr.) moved from the defensive line to guard. With Moriarty switched, Broderick Roberson (6-2, 281, soph.) moved to left guard. A spot starter, Brent Koontz (6-4, 258, jr.) did a good job at center. Tim Vitito (6-4, 315, soph.) was pushed for his tackle spot by redshirt freshman Jason Comer (6-4, 285). Comer missed part of the spring because of a death in the family, but coaches are very high on his abilities.

"We still have a glaring lack of depth, but the first units had a pretty good spring," Johnson said. "The quality is there. I just hope the quantity will be, also."

To some extent, the quality versus quantity variable could apply to the defensive unit that returned only three starters from last season's No. 12 defense. But much of the quantity proved to be of solid quality during the spring.

The line, which lost three key starters in Stacey Dillard, Proctor Land and Corey Mayfield, was in question early with few bodies and even less experience coming back.

UPI honorable mention All-American Reggie Barnes (6-1, 218, sr.) and Trey Tippens (6-3, 235, sr.) will be the anchors this season at the outside linebacker positions. Barnes had nine sacks and 73 tackles to lead all defensive linemen last season, while Tippens chipped in 47. Look for Tippens to have a good year after finally getting a long-awaited chance to shine.

Challenging for playing time in the fall will be Aubrey Beavers (6-4, 234, jr.), considered the best player at his position out of high school two years ago.

Russell Allen (6-6, 268, jr.) looks to have a legitimate shot at one of the two defensive end (formally known as defensive tackle) positions. Allen shined at times, but needs to be more consistent.

Before suffering a torn thumb ligament in the second week, Greg Wilkins (6-4, 280, soph.) had locked up the other end spot. The Big Eight co-Defensive Freshman of the Year should regain his spot in the fall.



Many figure Mike Coats will be the next All-American linebacker at OU.
Photo by Greg Phillips.

Rickey Wren (6-1, 263, jr.) and Ben Cavil (6-1, 289, soph.) went head-to-head for the vacated noseguard spot. So far it appears Wren has the edge, but fall will tell. Both have only one year of experience under their belts.

Linebackers suffered as much as any defensive position with the loss of All-American Joe Bowden and Chris Wilson. But Bowden, and many others, feel everything should work out with Mike Coats (6-0, 232, jr.) returning.

Coats provided leadership during the spring and looks to be the next good linebacker.

The weak-side linebacker position is still unsettled. Mike Fields (6-3, 226, soph.) was the leading candidate before going out with a shoulder injury. Mario Freeman (6-0, 208, fr.) stepped in and performed well, but there was still no real depth beyond him. So the Sooners experimented by bringing fullback Terry Collier (6-1, 212, fr.) across the ball. Collier has added some 30 pounds to his former 187-pound frame in order to be effective. For history buffs, this is the same move that resulted in George Cumby becoming a two-time All-American.

Terry's twin brother Perry (6-1, 194, fr.) also switched from offense to defense in an effort to give depth, but he ended up in the secondary.

Defensive Coordinator Tom Hayes hoped to use the spring to work on more aggressive man-to-man coverages, but the numbers just weren't there to get a clear picture.

Darnell Walker (5-8, 170, sr.) seemed to make the adjustment well and should get more chances to pick off quarterbacks. Walker had four interceptions and a league-leading 12 pass breakups last season.

Drew Christmon (5-9, 196, jr.) was slated for a shot at free safety or right corner, but ended up playing baseball with Gundy. William Shankle (6-0, 189, sr.) saw time behind Walker, but could end up in one of the other holes. A real plus was the play of cornerback Darius Johnson (5-11, 170, fr.). Johnson, who has the fastest 40 time on the team, picked up Hayes' scheme quickly and could make bigger strides in the fall.

The kicking chores are again in good hands with Scott Blanton (6-1, 210, soph.) and Brad Reddell (6-2, 195, sr.) returning at placekicker and punter. Reddell averaged 39.87 yards a boot last season after leading the league in 1990 with a 41.58 average.

Blanton struggled most of the year hitting only 4-of-12 field goals, but hit the ball solidly throughout the spring. He looked more confident and polished — two big pluses if OU is to contend for the conference championship. ■

KANSAS Jayhawks

Hilleary Prepares to Battle Doubters Once Again

It will probably be some time before the Kansas Jayhawk football team forgets the 1991 season; for Chip Hilleary it may not be so tough.

In a span of one year, the Jayhawks improved from 3-7-1 in 1990 to 6-5 last year and captured their first winning season since going 8-4 in 1981.

The icing on the cake was a 53-20 clubbing of Missouri in the final game of 1991. Spirits hadn't been as high in some time on the Lawrence campus. But while the success of the team kept Hilleary celebrating with his teammates in the locker room afterward, he quietly wished things could have been different for him personally.

Hilleary entered spring drills in 1990 as an untested quarterback who was being looked at to fill the void left by three-year starter Kelly Donohoe. Donohoe finished his stellar career as the Big Eight's fourth all-time leading passer with 5,382 yards.

At the time, 6-foot-1 Hilleary was the only scholarship signal caller on the roster. But KU Head Coach Glen Mason felt Hilleary had the tools to run the offense and gave him the job.

Hilleary did not disappoint as he passed for 1,730 yards while accounting for 2,072 yards of total offense (the fifth best mark in school history). Only four sophomore quarterbacks in conference history had produced more yards of total offense.

So when the 1991 season opened with Hilleary at the helm and nine other offensive starters back, expectations were pointing toward an even better year.

While statistically Hilleary's numbers were not as good (1,267 yards passing and 400 yards rushing), he still seemed to be a competent quarterback.

The problems began after the team opened up with a 3-0 record with wins over Toledo, Tulsa (a team only beaten by Kansas and Miami) and New Mexico State, only to drop the next two on the road to Virginia (31-19) and inter-state rival Kansas State (16-12). The press and supporters of the program began to question Hilleary's abilities in running the offense.

"I had a lot of expectations put on me going into the year," Hilleary said. "People put a lot of emphasis on what I was going to be able to do. I was in a slump right off the bat, which was probably more me than anything.

"It wasn't that I was doing anything differently than I had my sophomore year. Things just weren't clicking as far as the team went and I got the blame."

As a result Hilleary was replaced by then-sophomore Nate Florel (6-3, 205) as the starter against Iowa State the following week in Lawrence. Hilleary was given the fourth quarter and directed the team to two touchdowns.

The Jayhawks won handily (41-0), but the offense struggled early and didn't do quite the job it could've on the down Cyclones.

"By Coach (Mason) keeping me out of the game, it showed everyone that it wasn't the quarterback that was the problem," Hilleary said. "As an offense, we were not looking as good as we should've. I admit, as an individual, I wasn't doing all I should've, but I sure wasn't the entire problem."

After the game Mason was asked about changing quarterbacks. He said he was trying to alleviate some of the pressure that was being put on Hilleary.

"A quarterback is very instrumental in your success or lack of success," Mason said this spring. "Unfortunately quarterbacks receive far too much credit when things are going well and too much blame when they aren't. I have been on record, and Chip will attest to this, that he had a disappointing season.

"I know he's capable of doing better. Now, 1991 is behind him and this team. I've never seen him practice harder than this spring."

One of the problems the offense had last year was distributing the ball between the ground and the air effectively and still stay in games. To say the 1991 Jayhawks played a passive offense would be harsh considering "Tuxedo" Tony Sands finished the season with 1,442 yards rushing and snapped the NCAA record for rushing yardage in a game with 396 yards against Missouri. Sands, named the Big Eight Offensive Player of the Year, finished his career as the school's all-time leading rusher with 3,788 yards.

"I think my evaluation of our offensive output last season would be harsher than most people's," Mason said. "I was not pleased as a whole, but I don't think it had anything to do with being conservative or sitting on the lead.

"Really the fall down in our offense early in the year was an ineffective, inconsistent passing game which we corrected this spring."

Mason and his staff worked on turning the offense into a diverse multiple set which would attack and work in more of an up-tempo style than in past years.

"We've basically stuck with the same offensive philosophy, but changed it as far as we are going to be more of an attack offense instead of conservative like we've been," Hilleary said. "We've really worked on our passing game, which was a big minus last year."

Kansas finished sixth in the conference with only a 117.7 yards per game average.

If that average is to increase this season, it will come from some talented, but green receivers.

Senior Matt Gay (5-foot-11, 185)



Hassan Bailey (left) was a dominant force at outside linebacker after switching from cornerback. George White (below) will finally get a chance to show his stuff now that Tony Sands is gone.



brings experience at wide receiver after starting nine games a year ago. He had 17 receptions for 345 yards and two touchdowns. Gay will be backed by sophomore Greg Ballard (6-3, 180) and two-time letter winner Ron Page (6-1, 190).

The flanker slot will be filled by freshman Ashaundai Smith (5-6, 150) and senior Rob Licursi (6-0, 200).

If healthy, the tight end position could be the biggest asset with six lettermen back. Dwayne Chandler (6-2, 230, jr.) Pete Vang (6-3, 230, jr.) and Brent Willeford (6-4, 230, soph.) all missed spring drills with injuries, but are slated to return by fall. Chandler led the tight ends last season with 345 yards on 18 catches.

Junior Chad Fette (6-3, 235) took most of the reps this spring after sitting out all of last season. He had 19 grabs for 298 yards in 1990.

With Sands now just another distinguished alum, the question early was who would fill in at tailback. The answer so far has been Maurice Douglas (5-10, 195, sr.), who redshirted last season so he would have a shot at the position this spring. Coaches were very impressed with Douglas.

George White (5-10, 170, jr.) entered drills at No. 1, but was hurt during the first week and bothered with a hamstring which continued to hamper him. White rushed for 214 yards in a backup role. Chaka Johnson (6-0, 200, sr.), who had two 100-yard games as a part-time starter in 1990, is another proven back.

"I don't want to take anything away from Tony because he was a great running back, but we've not had a problem replacing him," Hilleary said. "The plus George, Chaka, Maurice and fullback Monte Cozzens (5-10, 225, sr.) gives us is they have great hands. They will be big factors coming out of the backfield."

In order for Hilleary to have the time to get the ball into these excellent hands, the offensive line will need to add depth.

Back from a line which helped lead the Jayhawks to a No. 12 ranking nationally in rushing offense are three starters, but only six lettermen.

Left guard and center look solid with Hessley Hempstead (6-1, 285, soph.) and Dan Schmidt (6-1, 265, jr.) returning. Keith Loneker (6-3, 305, sr.) also returns at right tackle. But past that, things are up for grabs.

Khristopher Booth (6-3, 275, soph.) spent most of the spring at left tackle while John Jones (6-2, 265, soph.) worked at right guard. Both looked good, but lack serious experience. Behind the starting five are six players with five letters combined.

Besides huge losses in the secondary, the defense, third best in the conference in total yards allowed, looks like it can pick up where last year's squad left off.

Senior Gilbert Brown (6-3, 280) and Dana Stubblefield (6-3, 280, sr.) return for their third consecutive seasons at the tackle spots. Stubblefield, a first team all-conference selection, led Big Eight linemen with 10 sacks.

Starter Guy Howard (6-3, 230, jr.) returns at right end with senior Kyle Moore taking over the left side. Moore started the last seven games a year ago, while Howard finished the last two at his slot after moving from outside linebacker.

This could be one of the best trio of linebackers in school history with the return of outside linebackers Don Davis (6-1, 205, soph.), honorable all-league pick Hassan Bailey (6-0, 200, sr.) and inside backer Steve Harvey (6-3, 230, soph.). All three are slated to be big timers in the conference this

JAYHAWK DEPTH CHART

(following spring game/classifications are for 1992 fall semester) *indicates letters earned.

OFFENSE

WR	***	Matt Gay	5-11	185	Sr
		Greg Ballard	6-3	180	Soph
LT	*	Khristopher Booth	6-3	275	Soph
		Rod Jones	6-3	265	Fr
LG	*	Hessley Hempstead	6-1	285	Soph
		Chris Banks	6-1	265	Fr
C	**	Dan Schmidt	6-1	265	Jr
	***	Dave Marcum	6-1	260	Sr
RG	*	John Jones	6-2	265	Soph
		Trace Liggett	6-1	265	Jr
RT	***	Keith Loneker	6-3	305	Sr
		Brian Rodeno	6-5	255	Fr
TE	**	Dwayne Chandler	6-2	230	Jr
	**	Chad Fette	6-3	235	Jr
QB	***	Chip Hilleary	6-1	185	Sr
		Fredrick Thomas	6-0	180	Soph
WR	***	Rob Licursi	6-0	200	Sr
		Ashaundai Smith	5-6	150	Fr
TB	***	Maurice Douglas	5-10	195	Sr
	**	Chaka Johnson	6-0	200	Sr
FB	***	Monte Cozzens	5-10	225	Sr
	*	Chris Powell	5-11	210	Soph
K	**	Dan Eichloff	6-0	215	Jr

DEFENSE

LE	*	Sylvester Wright	6-2	235	Soph
	**	Kyle Moore	6-3	250	Sr
LT	**	Chris Maumalanga	6-2	275	Jr
	***	Gilbert Brown	6-2	305	Sr
RT	**	Dana Stubblefield	6-3	280	Sr
		Mark Allison	6-3	280	Fr
RE	**	Guy Howard	6-3	230	Jr
	**	Ty Moeder	6-3	230	Jr
LB	*	Don Davis	6-1	205	Soph
		Clint Eskam	6-2	210	Fr
LB	*	Steve Harvey	6-3	230	Soph
		Dick Holt	6-3	215	Fr
LB	***	Hassan Bailey	6-0	200	Sr
	*	Harold Harris	6-0	195	Soph
CB	**	Robert Vaughn	6-0	190	Jr
		Spencer Bonner	5-11	180	Fr
FS		Kwamie Lassiter	6-1	185	Jr
		James Givens	6-4	175	Soph
SS		Marlin Blakeney	5-11	175	Fr
	***	Charlie Bowen	5-10	190	Sr
CB	*	Gerald McBurrows	5-11	180	Soph
		David Converse	6-0	190	Jr
P	**	Dan Eichloff	6-0	215	Jr

QUICK LOOK BACK

1991 RECORD

6-5

at Toledo	(W) 30-7
Tulsa	(W) 23-17
New Mexico State	(W) 54-14
at Virginia	(L) 31-19
at Kansas State	(L) 16-12
Iowa State	(W) 41-0
at Oklahoma	(L) 41-3
at Oklahoma State	(W) 31-0
Nebraska	(L) 59-23
at Colorado	(L) 30-24
Missouri	(W) 53-29

CONFERENCE FINISH:
Fifth

TOTAL OFFENSE (Conf):
384.36 yards (3rd)

TOTAL DEFENSE (Conf):
321.7 yards (3rd)

STARTERS RETURNING:
Offense — 6
Defense — 8
Specialists — 2

year.

Harvey recorded 76 tackles and caused a fumble en route to being named the Associated Press Defensive Newcomer of the Year.

Graduation tore the secondary apart and left Mason scrambling to fill holes during the spring.

Only junior Robert Vaughn (6-0, 190) is a returner at corner. Gerald McBurrows (5-11, 180) seems to have the inside shot at the corner after gaining three starts as a true freshman.

A spot starter throughout his career, senior Charley Bowen (5-10, 190) has the edge at strong safety while James Givens (6-4, 175, soph.), junior David Mack (6-0, 180, jr.) and junior college transfer Kwamie Lassiter (6-1, 185, jr.) battle again in the fall for a starting job.

While the kicking corps are usually listed at the end of spring outlooks, Kansas' Dan Eichloff (6-0, 215, jr.) probably deserves more credit. A second team All-American as both punter and placekicker, Eichloff led the Big Eight in punting (42.3) and field goals, connecting on 18-of-24 and averaging 1.64 points a game.

After last season's surprising march, people will be expecting Kansas to again make some noise in the top heavy Big Eight. The test of this team's confidence building will be a couple of early games in the schedule.

The third game has the Jayhawks traveling to Tulsa, only to turn around and play California at home on national television five days later. If Kansas wants to build on the success of last year's national exposure, early wins could be the key.

"Coach Mason has done a great job of getting Kansas the respect it used to have as a football school," Hilleary said. "When I first got here all we were asked to do was try. Now we better succeed.

"To some point we are putting that on ourselves as a team and that's where it should come from. If we do well it will be because we won as a team and not because of one individual. The same is true if we aren't as successful. We feel there is not one team we can't compete with. We proved that last year." ■

Chip Hilleary has the tools and experience to make big things happen this season.
Photo by Harry Lentz, Jr.


KU
18

KANSAS STATE WILDCATS

Backfield Loss May Slow Down Promising Offense

It would be easy for Bill Snyder to sit back and savor the accomplishments of last season's Cinderella march to a fourth place finish in the Big Eight race.

After all, who could blame him. Success just hasn't been a frequent thing in Manhattan, Kan., over the years.

But being content with past accomplishments isn't in Synder's game plan this season. Taking the next step is.

It was only a year ago that Snyder directed Kansas State to its first winning season (7-4) since 1982. This from a school that has only won seven or more games six times since 1896. For his effort, Snyder was named the Big Eight Coach of the Year for the second consecutive season. A feat only Nebraska's Bob Devaney (1963/1964) and Oklahoma's Barry Switzer (1973/1974 and 1986/1987) have been able to accomplish.

"I'm extremely proud of our players and how far a 7-4 season indicates our program has come," Snyder said. "But the players, coaching staff and myself were truly disappointed that it was not better. We're not going to talk about what could have and should have been, but we're tempted.

"We are very much aware that this is merely another step and we still have quite a distance to go."

Calling what Snyder has done since his arrival in November of 1988 simply a "step" would be like calling the Grand Canyon just a hole.

Snyder took over a program which had finished the 1988 season 0-11. He promised no overnight success story, but challenged his players with a "truckload of goals." Key among his concerns was teaching his student athletes to expect more of themselves and the team.

There was no timetable set for the change and 1989 resulted in a 1-10 season. By the following season the change-over began to show when the Wildcats finished 5-6.

"Our team took a step forward and certainly closed the gap," Snyder said after the season. "We haven't turned the corner, but we think we are peeking around it now. We played with a vision of what we hope this program is going to be."

The Wildcats' vision improved in 1991 as they raced to 3-0 before losing 56-3 to eventual co-National Champion Washington in Seattle. The team rebounded with its first win since 1986 against inter-state rival Kansas. Only losses to the conference's big three smudged the remaining schedule.

The encouraging thing had to be the small margin of defeat against Nebraska in Lincoln (38-31) and Colorado (10-0).

So expectations were high entering 1992 spring drills as the 'Cats returned 44 lettermen and 14 starters. But while attitudes have been high and practice hard, Snyder said spring drills were "tolerable at best."

"We were looking to develop a quality two-deep at all the positions and continue development at the positions that are the strengths of this ballclub," he said. "Some of those things have improved and some haven't. I guess that's what spring ball is all about."

If there was any one major setback during spring drills it would have to be the loss of senior tailback Eric Gallon.

Last season the Wildcats' running game saw drastic improvement as it improved from a 118 yards per game average (87th nationally) to 159.6 (62nd nationally). The catalyst to the resurgence was Gallon. Gallon became only the third Wildcat to rush for more than 1,000 yards in a season after racking up 1,102 yards.

During the first week of drills, Gallon made a cut to the outside on a routine play and had his knee buckle and give out. He tore his anterior cruciate and has since began rehabilitation following successful surgery.

The timetable for a return is six months, putting his return in late November at the earliest.

"I feel so badly about Eric's situation," Snyder said. "You hate for something like that to happen to such a quality young man. You also hate to lose 1,300 to 1,400 total yards of offense. Eric is an awfully fine running back and his loss will certainly be heartfelt more because of his own goals and how important football is to him."

In Gallon's absence, Snyder has had to dip into a solid stockpile of backups to replace him.

Snyder believes J.J. Smith (5-11, 185, soph.) will be a factor and a strong replacement. Smith, currently the No. 1 tailback, averaged 8.7 yards a game last season. Backing Smith will be redshirt freshman Bryant Brooks (6-1, 215) and freshman Leon Edwards (5-6, 161).

"Smith, Brooks and Edwards are young guys who have a lot to learn about our offense, but they bring skill to the table," Sndyer said.

After sitting out last year, sophomore Rod Schiller (6-0, 205) returns at fullback. As a freshman starter he rushed for 184 yards and caught 11 passes.

Before the loss of Gallon, the big question in the offensive backfield

The loss of Eric Gallon, the conference's second leading rusher returnee, until mid-season will affect the Wildcats' offensive one-two punch.

Photo by William Lauer.


Riddell

WILDCAT DEPTH CHART

(following spring game/classifications are for 1992 fall semester) *indicates letters earned.

OFFENSE

WR		Joey Normand	6-1	180	Soph
	*	Gerald Benton	5-8	155	Sr
LT	**	Josh Kolb	6-4	265	Sr
	*	Barrett Brooks	6-5	270	Soph
LG	***	Toby Lawrence	6-5	280	Sr
	**	Eric Clayton	6-6	275	Sr
C	**	Quentin Neujahr	6-4	270	Jr
		Jeff Smith	6-1	255	Fr
RG	**	Eric Wolford	6-3	260	Jr
		David Squires	6-2	265	Soph
RT	***	Mike Orr	6-7	270	Sr
		Jim Hmielewski	6-7	275	Soph
TE	*	Brian Rees	6-5	240	Soph
	**	Brad Seib	6-4	230	Jr
QB	**	Jason Smargiasso	6-2	210	Jr
	**	Matt Garber	6-2	200	Sr
FB	*	Rod Schiller	6-0	205	Soph
	*	Oliver Salmans	6-2	215	Soph
RB	*	J.J. Smith	5-11	185	Soph
		Bryant Brooks	6-1	215	Fr
WR	**	Andre Coleman	5-10	170	Jr
		Tyson Schwieger	5-10	170	Fr
K	**	Tate Wright	5-11	175	Jr
	**	Warren Claassen	5-11	175	Jr

DEFENSE

LE	***	Reggie Blackwell	6-2	205	Sr
	**	John Butler	6-2	220	Jr
LT	***	Ekwensi Griffith	6-0	265	Sr
		Blair Detelich	6-1	260	Soph
NT	*	Darrell Harbert	6-1	250	Soph
	*	Kelly Greene	6-3	275	Soph
RT	***	Sean Dabney	6-3	255	Sr
	**	Steve Moten	6-2	270	Sr
LB	***	Brooks Barta	6-0	215	Sr
		Kyle Garst	6-0	230	Sr
LB	*	Brent Venables	6-1	230	Sr
		Jesse Lantz	6-1	200	Fr
LB	**	Chris Patterson	6-3	235	Sr
		Derrick McBride	6-2	210	Soph
LC	**	Kitt Rawlings	5-11	175	Jr
		Keith Porter	6-1	180	Fr
FS	**	Jaime Mendez	6-0	195	Jr
		Chris Sublette	6-0	185	Soph
SS	***	C.J. Masters	6-1	200	Sr
	**	Greg Patterson	6-0	170	Sr
RC		Kenny McIntyre	5-10	180	Sr
		Steve Hanks	6-0	185	Fr
P	*	Sean Snyder	6-2	175	Jr
	**	Warren Claassen	5-11	175	Jr

QUICK LOOK BACK

1991 RECORD

7-4

Indiana State	(W) 26-25
Idaho State	(W) 41-7
Northern Illinois	(W) 34-17
at Washington	(L) 56-3
Kansas	(W) 16-12
at Nebraska	(L) 38-31
Colorado	(L) 10-0
at Oklahoma	(L) 28-7
at Iowa State	(W) 37-7
Missouri	(W) 3-0
at Oklahoma State	(W) 36-26

CONFERENCE FINISH:
Fourth

TOTAL OFFENSE (Conf):
384.64 yards (2nd)

TOTAL DEFENSE (Conf):
351.4 yards (5th)

STARTERS RETURNING:
Offense — 6
Defense — 8
Specialists — 2

was finding a replacement for departed quarterback Paul Watson.

Last spring Snyder was faced with the same situation after the graduation of Carl Straw. Neither Watson nor junior Jason Smargiasso (6-2, 210) took the offense on their shoulders and the position was left up for grabs.

Both Smargiasso and senior Matt Garber (6-2, 200) competed for the starting job this spring, but again there was no clear-cut leader. Smargiasso passed for 163 yards and rushed for 168 last season in a limited role.

"Most of us felt it would go into the fall and it has," Snyder said. "We aren't actually any further away than we were a year ago when Paul and Jason were in virtually the same situation.

"Both Jason and Matt worked with the No. 1 offense this spring. We hoped, as we always do, someone would've jumped heads and heels above the other to be a definite front runner. That hasn't happened to this point."

With the quarterback and running back positions in a flux of sorts, concentration was heavily placed on the receiver spots.

Finding replacements for the conference's third all-time leading receiver Michael Smith and Frank Hernadez was high on the Wildcats' list of priorities.

Relief may have been found in junior Andre Coleman (5-10, 170) and Gerald Benton (5-8, 155, sr.) who both possess better speed than their predecessors. Coleman pulled in 18 grabs for 279 yards, while Benton accounted for 121 yards with 11 receptions.

Replacing mammoth 6-5 Russ Campbell at tight end was not as easy. His heir apparent, Brad Seib (6-4, 230, jr.) and Brian Rees (6-5, 240, soph.) have yet to catch a pass in game situations.

Up front things look to be in better shape with four starters and a part-timer returning on the offensive line.

Quentin Neujahr (6-4, 270, jr.) will anchor the line at center with junior Eric Wolford (6-3, 260, jr.) and Toby Lawrence (6-5, 280, sr.) at the guards. Switching from left to right tackle, senior Mike Orr (6-7, 270) and sophomore Barrett Brooks (6-5, 270) round out the five.

"We've had a base of starters to work with this year and my concern is that we continue to make progress," Snyder said. "We still need to establish greater depth along the line. When you start talking about depth you have to



Gerald Benton is a double threat with his great speed at wideout and on kickoff returns.
Photo by William Lauer.

be awfully lucky because you're talking about negating injuries."

If the offense can get squared away during the fall, this Wildcat team will have a chance to go far because of what should be Snyder's strongest asset — the defense.

While the defense lost three quality starters in left end Elijah Alexander and corners William Price and Rogerick Green, it appears to be in good shape with a slew of seniors and quality depth.

Switching between a 5-2 and 4-3 alignment last season (moves that should continue into the fall scheme) the Wildcats allowed its fewest yards (351.4 a game) in nine years.

Reggie Blackwell (6-2, 205, sr.) will have the chore of replacing Alexander at the end. Blackwell is said to have Alexander's excellent speed and power.

The tackle spots return two players who have been part-time starters since their sophomore year. Right tackle Jody Kilian (6-5, 275) and left tackle Ekwensi Griffith (6-0, 265, sr.) combined for 59 tackles a year ago. But the tandem will be challenged again in the fall by quality backups like Tony Williams (6-4, 295, sr.) and Sean Dabney (6-3, 255, sr.).

Sophomore Kelly Greene (6-3, 275) came out of spring drills as the starter at noseguard. As a freshman he racked up 31 tackles while starting all 11 games. Look for Jeff Simoneau (6-0, 280, sr.) to get more than a shot at taking the job away in the fall. Simoneau, a Kansas native and Arizona State transfer, appears to have all the tools (including 4.55 speed) to be a major force. He switched from his ASU position of fullback to the defense in an effort to utilize his aggressiveness more effectively.

Senior Brooks Barta (6-0, 215) was a first team All-Big Eight selection and honorable mention All-American last season at the linebacker spot. Barta was a terror in the 4-3 set racking up a team-leading 108 tackles last year.

Joining Barta are seniors Chris Patterson (6-3, 235) and Brent Venables (6-1, 230). Patterson was in on 64 tackles while former walkon Venables scored 29 in 10 games as a reliever.

If there is a weakness in the defense, it is at the secondary positions with the losses of Price and Green. There is good talent to fill the holes, but still a glaring lack of experience.

Sophomore Chuck Culver (5-10, 175) looks like the left corner nominee unless junior Kitt Rawlings (5-11, 175) comes on strong late. An All-American track star, Thomas Randolph (5-10, 170, jr.) stayed as the top right corner through spring drills, but much like Culver's position, this could change by fall. Incoming freshmen should get a solid look at these spots.

The safety positions will be manned by All-Big Eight selection Jaime Mendez (6-0, 195) at free safety and senior C.J. Masters (6-1, 200). Both have seen considerable action and will provide much needed leadership in the fall.

"We have a little lack of experience at some of the defensive spots, but we should be better than people expect," Barta said. "A lot of guys are taking on leadership roles and helping the younger guys to improve. That's important if we want to be successful.

"Last year we felt like we were in some games we didn't win, but it may have made us a better fourth-quarter team. Now we need to take another step. We've played with a lot of the big boys and knocked one or two of them off."

An early indication of whether this team will be able to knock off the big boys again, will be the middle part of the 1992 schedule. After three home games, the Wildcats will go on the road for four straight games against Kansas, Utah State, Colorado and Oklahoma. Before last year's 37-7 road win over Iowa State, the Wildcats had not won a road game since a 20-17 win over Missouri in 1986.

"The four road games will definitely have an impact on the success of this group," Snyder said. "It's tempered somewhat by the fact that the players expect more out of themselves this year and that gives us a greater degree of confidence.

"A confident team can play well on the road. Now we'll just have to see if we can make the next step." ■

MISSOURI Tigers

Staying Healthy Could Open Door to Success

Three years ago Mike Bedosky, wet behind the ears with only second-string experience at offensive left tackle, was inserted into the starting lineup of a slumping (1-1) Missouri team before the Indiana game.

The coaching staff was frantically trying to find healthy bodies to fill the many holes on the offensive line. Injuries and graduation had not been kind to the Tigers. All that was asked of the *Parade* All-American freshman was to hold his blocks as long as he could and give all he could.

Indiana went on to slaughter the Tigers 58-7.

But as the coaching staff agonizingly viewed game film the following Sunday, a certain left guard's play grabbed the attention of all present. Bedosky graded out as the top lineman in the contest and went on to start the remaining nine games before earning freshman All-American honors at the end of the season.

"Coach (Andy) Reid came up to me the week before the game and told me I was about to make the jump to the big leagues and I better take care of myself," said the 6-foot-5, 305-pound junior who is already being tabbed for All-American honors this year. "It was really like being thrown into a fire."

If weathering his freshman campaign was comparable to battling a blaze, Bedosky will now have to prepare for an inferno.

Only Bedosky and part-time starter Doug Hembrough (6-1, 270, sr.) return on the line.

Senior Brad Funk would have been able to give the Tigers a solid center, but had to forego this season's eligibility due to a recurring neck injury. Beyond Bedosky and Hembrough, there is little depth and even less experience.

Coby Crowl (6-4, 270, sr.) has nicely battled back from a knee injury and should get a start at left tackle, while right tackle should be filled by senior Gene Snisky (6-7, 298). Both are seniors though there are only three varsity letters between them.

Hembrough, after trying his hand at guard this spring, will take over center and either senior Bob Petrus (6-5, 268) or junior Matt Pearce (6-3, 266) will get the nod at left guard.

"Our lack of depth on the offensive line is as big a concern as we have going into the fall," said fourth-year Head Coach Bob Stull. "We have some linemen behind Bedosky and Hembrough, but there's not a lot of experience or depth. We have two guys (Crowl and junior Tim Alvarado) coming off knee surgery and can't afford any other injuries.

"The success of this year's team depends on that."

Oh yes, that dreaded nemesis, injury.

It's been a companion of Stull's since his arrival in Columbia in 1988.

Missouri got off to a startling 2-1-1 record in 1991 (granted the wins were the result of a dropped, game winning pass by Illinois and an outmatched Memphis State squad), but at what a price! During the four-game stretch, Stull saw seven starters on offense and four on defense go down with injuries. Missouri finished the year 3-7-1.

"If we are going to be competitive this year we are going to have to stay healthy," Stull said. "Last year we thought we'd struggle early with the young players we had and get better as the season progressed. But the rash of injuries made it that much more difficult. We can't afford to lose a lot of guys early this year or we won't even be around later."

The Tigers have their work cut out this year. They open against three teams (Illinois, Texas A&M and Indiana) which went to bowl games last year and Marshall, which played for the NCAA Division II Championship. "This is definitely our toughest schedule since I've been here," Stull said.

With lack of depth and experience , the Tigers concentrated this spring on balancing their pro-set offense and cleaning up a defense which finished the season ranked 105th in the country in total defense (only New Mexico was worse, allowing 524 yards per game).

Last season's Tiger offense proved to be as predictable as snow fall in Alaska during December.

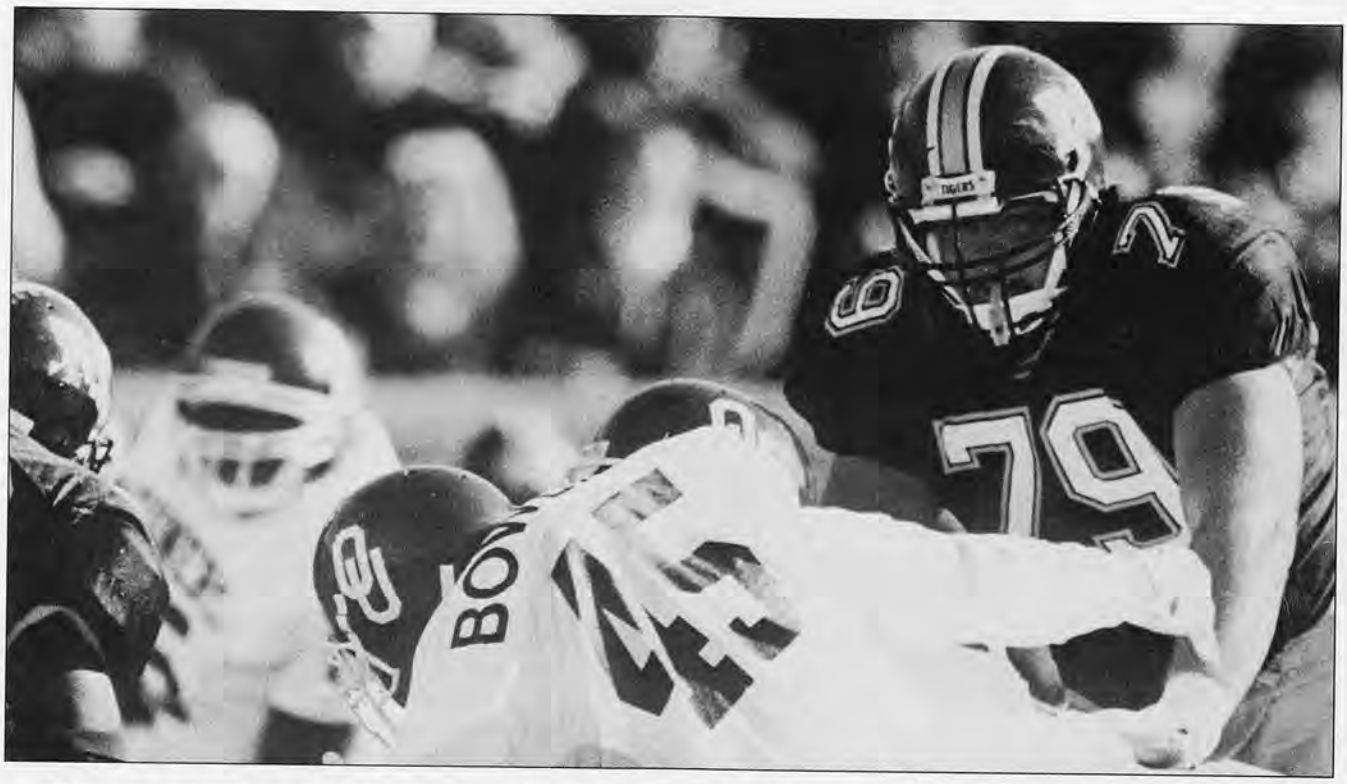
With no running attack to be found — they finished dead last in the Big Eight with a miserable 107.3 yards per game rushing average — Missouri was forced to operate with a four-wideout alignment. The Tigers made the most of their predicament and finished at the top of the conference charts averaging 241.9 yards a game through the air.

But defending a team so one dimensional was no problem for opponents.

"We have to have the run to complement the pass or we won't be able to move the ball this year," Bedosky said. "Last year we had no tight end and it left five of us blocking for the pass nearly all game. Teams began to key on that.

"Illinois rushed only three guys and dropped everything else back. That made us real susceptible to the zone coverage."

Stull is looking to move the offense into a tight end/two-back formation. The Tigers will have the talents of Victor Bailey (6-4, 200, sr.), Kenny Holly (6-0, 183, jr.) and Byron Chamberlain (6-2, 236, jr.) returning in the scaled down Run-and-Shoot. Bailey led the squad last season in receiving with 29 receptions for 508 yards. Chamberlain and Holly were not far behind, pulling in 39 for 464 yards and 31 for 399, respectively.



Mike Bedosky will be the veteran anchor of a young offensive line.
Photo by Greg Phillips.

If the running game is going to get off the ground and become effective, quite a few things are going to have to happen. Much like the offensive line, the backfield lacks experience and depth.

Last season's leading rusher with 420 yards, Michael Washington missed spring drills while attending junior college. Another blow was the loss of senior Ronnell Kayhill (5-9, 203), who continues to be hampered by a knee injury which cut his junior season short. Kayhill gives the Tigers a versatile back who possesses great speed and running ability, as well as good hands in the flat. He pulled in 32 receptions for 299 yards before going out in game seven against Nebraska.

Both Kayhill and Washington are expected back for the fall, but until then, the pressure will be on sophomore Joe Freeman (5-10, 183). Jerome Madison (6-0, 183, soph.) was also expected to help at tailback, but was switched to right corner during spring drills.

Senior Mike Schlef (5-11, 219), returning from a broken ankle which kept him sidelined all of last season, should keep the fullback slot locked up as long as he stays healthy.

If there is any one position Stull can feel confident about, it is quarterback.

Junior Phil Johnson (6-5, 205, jr.) returns after starting last season and setting a Missouri season total offense record with 2,187 yards. Johnson passed for 2,029 yards and 14 touchdowns during the year, while climbing the ladder on the Tigers' all-time leading passer charts (he is currently fifth with 2,983 yards).

Backing Johnson are sophomores Jeff Handy (6-3, 203) and Brian Sallee (6-3, 191). Handy took over for an injured Johnson in the last game of the year and passed for 245 yards. He ended the season completing 48-of-89 passes for 565 yards — the seventh best passing total for a Big Eight freshman.

Wanting to revamp one of the poorest defensive efforts in some time at Missouri, Stull started by replacing Defensive Coordinator Larry Hoefer, who had been with the program for four years, with Don Lindsey. Lindsey plans to utilize multiple formations and stunts in an effort to make the Tiger defense growl instead of purr.

The big question for a defense which returns seven is the line.

The loss of three-year starter Mario Johnson at left tackle and junior George Hunt (6-3, 270), and having Matt Murray (6-5, 268, soph.) sidelined through the spring with injuries, has hindered the line's development.

One plus would have to be the return of senior Stacy Elliott (6-4, 257) and junior Rick Lyle (6-6, 271). Both saw their seasons cut short last year, with Lyle suffering a stress fracture against Baylor and Elliott going down with mononucleosis after game nine. If healthy, the two could be one of the best end tandems in the conference.

The tackle positions are shaky at best, but the return of the often injured George Hunt (6-3, 271, jr.) and a healthy Lyle could make things better. Hunt underwent shoulder surgery and is expected to be near 100 percent by fall.

In their absence, senior Tim Burke (6-2, 276) received most of the looks during spring and should get a chance at locking up a tackle position.

One of the most contested spots turned out to be in the linebacking positions where many shined and depth abounded.

Only the middle linebacker spot seemed nailed down by sophomore Darryl Major (6-2, 238). Major, the co-Big Eight Freshman Defensive Player of the Year last season, started six games and finished sixth on the team in tackles with 57.

With Lindsey's commitment to a speedier, more aggressive defense, the Tigers seem to be in good shape after moving wide receiver Avery Griggs (6-3, 214) into the backfield and returning the much traveled senior Jermaine Wilkins to his position of a year ago. Wilkins has played every position in the backfield, but seems

TIGER DEPTH CHART

(following spring game/classifications are for 1992 fall semester) *indicates letters earned.

OFFENSE

WR	**	Victor Bailey	6-4	200	Sr
	**	Mike Jadlot	6-5	204	Jr
LT	*	Coby Crowl	6-4	270	Sr
		Reagan Allen	6-6	288	Fr
LG	**	Bob Petrus	6-5	268	Sr
	*	Matt Pearce	6-3	266	Jr
C	**	Doug Hembrough	6-1	270	Sr
	*	Matt Burgess	6-3	273	Jr
RG	**	Mike Bedosky	6-5	288	Jr
	*	Rafe Parsons	6-5	326	Soph
RT	**	Gene Snisky	6-7	298	Sr
	*	Trey O'Neil	6-6	264	Soph
TE	*	A.J. Ofodile	6-7	248	Soph
		Bart Harris	6-4	211	Fr
QB	**	Phil Johnson	6-5	205	Jr
	*	Jeff Handy	6-3	203	Soph
TB	***	Ronnell Kayhill	5-9	203	Sr
	*	Joe Freeman	5-10	183	Soph
FB	**	Mike Schlef	5-11	219	Sr
		Antwan Johnson	6-1	205	Fr
FL	**	Kenny Holly	6-0	183	Jr
	**	Byron Chamberlain	6-2	236	Jr
K	***	Jeff Jacke	6-0	190	Sr
		Kyle Pooler	6-0	186	Soph

DEFENSE

LE	***	Stacy Elliott	6-4	257	Sr
		Chris Walls	6-3	228	Fr
LT	**	Rick Lyle	6-6	270	Jr
	*	Chris Harrison	6-4	264	Jr
NT	**	Tim Burke	6-2	276	Sr
	**	Jon Watkins	6-3	263	Sr
RE	*	Marc Pedrotti	6-4	224	Soph
		Patrick Ivey	6-4	238	Fr
LB	***	Jermaine Wilkins	6-3	199	Sr
		Earl Brooks	6-0	213	Jr
LB	***	Mike Ringgenberg	6-4	235	Sr
	*	Darryl Major	6-2	238	Soph
LB	*	Travis McDonald	6-2	223	Soph
	**	Lance Noel	6-1	195	Sr
LC	*	Kevin McInotsh	6-0	178	Soph
	*	Javan Lenhardt	6-1	195	Soph
SS	***	Maurice Benson	6-0	197	Sr
	*	Detrick Wells	6-0	228	Soph
FS	*	Andre White	6-1	185	Soph
	*	Montana Waggoner	5-11	178	Soph
RC	**	Jason Oliver	5-11	170	Jr
	*	Jerome Madison	6-0	183	Soph
P	***	Jeff Jacke	6-0	190	Sr
		Kyle Pooler	6-0	186	Soph

QUICK LOOK BACK

1991 RECORD

3-7-1

Illinois	(W) 23-19
at Baylor	(L) 47-21
Indiana	(T) 27-27
Memphis State	(W) 31-21
at Colorado	(L) 55-7
Oklahoma State	(W) 41-7
at Nebraska	(L) 63-6
Iowa State	(L) 23-22
Oklahoma	(L) 56-16
at Kansas State	(L) 32-0
at Kansas	(L) 53-29

CONFERENCE FINISH:
Seventh

TOTAL OFFENSE (Conf):
349.18 yards (6th)

TOTAL DEFENSE (Conf):
505 yards (8th)

STARTERS RETURNING:
Offense — 7
Defense — 7
Specialists — 1

more comfortable working from the OLB spot. Last season he racked up 47 tackles and picked off two passes.

Others who will be pressing in the fall are sophomore Travis McDonald (6-2, 223) and junior college transfer Earl Brooks (6-0, 213).

The secondary, much like the linebacker spots, is stockpiled with talent but lacks some experience.

Attempting to fill the huge void left by Sharron Washington at free safety will be sophomores Andre White (6-1, 185) and Montana Waggoner (5-11, 178). Both have shown enough ability and raw talent that former freshman All-American Mike Jadlot (6-5, 197) has moved to wideout. Strong safety is in good hands with senior Maurice Benson (6-0, 197), who finished last season with 64 tackles and seven pass breakups. Sophomore Detrick Wells (6-0, 228) and freshman Bo Adams (6-0, 198) will push Benson again in the fall, but don't look for any major changes.

Junior Jason Oliver (5-11, 170) is the Tigers' other secondary starting returner. After making the switch from tailback to corner last season, he held the position for all 11 games and put together impressive numbers with 59 tackles, two interceptions and 11 pass breakups.

Sophomore Jerome Madison (6-0, 183) who played most of last season in the offensive backfield as a tailback, and sophomore Javan Lenhardt (6-1, 195) will fill in for Oliver when needed.

The kicking chores will once again fall on the shoulders of second team All-Big Eight selection Jeff Jacke (6-0, 190). Jacke will be looking to build on his 155 career points this season and break the school scoring record for kickers. Punting duties will be picked up by junior college transfer Scott Villarreal (6-1, 220) who finished last season ranked sixth in the nation with a 42-yard per punt average.

"We've got a lot of youth out there this year and the only way we can see what we've been dealt is to get out and play," Stull said. "Last year was an unusual year. I just have to hope it won't become a trend." ■

Phil Johnson could be the difference maker this season if his numbers continue to increase.

Photo by William Lauer.


14


Cyclones
IOWA STATE
25

IOWA STATE CYCLONES

Catching Up with the Conference

During the nation's latest economic recession, many businesses found themselves battling the same problems Iowa State Head Coach Jim Walden has been complaining about since he arrived in Ames six years ago.

With money short and business slow, many industries were forced to have less people doing the same work a full force had been tackling in years past.

Walden's mission is simple — pull a perpetual cellar dweller football team into contention with a squad smaller in number than rap star Hammer's touring company.

Coming out of spring drills, Walden has 81 players on scholarship — 14 short of the number allowed by the NCAA. Of that group, at least six who figure to make it into the two deep are still battling injuries suffered last fall.

But dealing with low numbers is nothing new to Walden.

When he took over the Cyclone program in 1987, only 60 players suited up for spring drills. Walden inherited a program which had been recruiting mainly junior college transfers with only two years eligibility.

Gone from the 1986 squad were 17 starters. Not lettermen, but starters.

Walden went so far as to open tryouts to the student body to help field a deep enough team.

Since 1987, Walden has had better success in the recruiting part of the job, keeping the cupboard a little less empty. Now the problem is keeping them healthy.

By the fifth game last year, the Cyclones had lost 17 players including two quarterbacks. After starting the season 2-3, Iowa State went on to finish 3-7-1, beating only Missouri (23-22) in the Big Eight. The tie came against 0-10-1 Oklahoma State in Ames.

Mark DouBrava provides both leadership and a powerful pop out of the secondary.
Photo by William Lauer.

While many wrote off the 1991 season as another in a long line of ISU losing seasons (fourth under Walden and seventh in 11 years), Walden saw it differently.

"People have been writing us off for so long that it's getting where it's almost expected from us," Walden said. "I think this is going to be the year that we are going to change those opinions. I've been building this program for six long, long years and we finally look to be within a percentage point of having the same number of players on the field that everyone else has.

"Having numbers is definitely a plus because with bodies come quality."

The Cyclones have a fair assortment of both. Eighteen starters return for the 1992 season, including nine on offense.

"I can see the shaping up of a real good team," Walden said. "I really, for the first time since I've been here, don't have a real depth concern. Maybe that's how you should feel if your program is getting better."

If the Cyclones are going to make the jump from sub par to contender, Walden is going to have to get steady play out of a defense which returns seven starters.

But this may be an example of quality without sufficient quantity.

Last year's defense finished in the bottom three of all Big Eight defensive categories. Add to the lack of quantity the loss of all four starters on the defensive line. Between the four were 14 letters; the likely replacements own only four.

A healthy Troy Petersen (6-foot-4, 268, soph.) and senior Todd Miller (6-4, 256) should get the nod at the tackle spots. Miller performed well in spring drills after coming off a knee injury which kept him out last season. Petersen is also coming off a medical redshirt season, but appears to be healthy.

Injuries also hit hard in the end positions; both tentative starters missed last season. Senior Shane Dunlevy (6-4, 249) played in only one game before going down with a broken wrist. Left end candidate George Conditt (6-4, 236, jr.) was also hampered by a wrist injury.

"A lot of people would figure that the defensive line would be a big concern because of the loss of four quality starters, but I'm really not all that concerned," Walden said. "We had three guys sitting out, who at one point started for us and are really bigger, stronger athletes than some of the guys they're replacing.

"Dunleavy would have probably started over Mark Dunn (a three year letterman) last season if he hadn't been injured. The talent is definitely there. We just need for them to take charge and respond. The senior leadership in the linebacking and secondary slots should help push them."

One player Walden will be counting heavily on is senior free safety Mark DouBrava (6-0, 192).

DouBrava, a first team All-Big Eight and second team Associated Press selection a year ago, returns after leading the team with 99 tackles. But while individual honors have come easily, it's team success which is foremost on his mind.

"Everyone wants to go out with a successful season," DouBrava said. "Last year was really disappointing. We all thought we would do better than we did. It was just a bad situation

IOWA STATE CYCLONES

Catching Up with the Conference

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Photo by William Lauer.

While many wrote off the 1991 season as another in a long line of ISU losing seasons (fourth under Walden and seventh in 11 years), Walden saw it differently.

"People have been writing us off for so long that it's getting where it's almost expected from us," Walden said. "I think this is going to be the year that we are going to change those opinions. I've been building this program for six long, long years and we finally look to be within a percentage point of having the same number of players on the field that everyone else has.

"Having numbers is definitely a plus because with bodies come quality."

The Cyclones have a fair assortment of both. Eighteen starters return for the 1992 season, including nine on offense.

"I can see the shaping up of a real good team," Walden said. "I really, for the first time since I've been here, don't have a real depth concern. Maybe that's how you should feel if your program is getting better."

If the Cyclones are going to make the jump from sub par to contender, Walden is going to have to get steady play out of a defense which returns seven starters.

But this may be an example of quality without sufficient quantity.

Last year's defense finished in the bottom three of all Big Eight defensive categories. Add to the lack of quantity the loss of all four starters on the defensive line. Between the four were 14 letters; the likely replacements own only four.

A healthy Troy Petersen (6-foot-4, 268, soph.) and senior Todd Miller (6-4, 256) should get the nod at the tackle spots. Miller performed well in spring drills after coming off a knee injury which kept him out last season. Petersen is also coming off a medical redshirt season, but appears to be healthy.

Injuries also hit hard in the end positions; both tentative starters missed last season. Senior Shane Dunlevy (6-4, 249) played in only one game before going down with a broken wrist. Left end candidate George Conditt (6-4, 236, jr.) was also hampered by a wrist injury.

"A lot of people would figure that the defensive line would be a big concern because of the loss of four quality starters, but I'm really not all that concerned," Walden said. "We had three guys sitting out, who at one point started for us and are really bigger, stronger athletes than some of the guys they're replacing.

"Dunleavy would have probably started over Mark Dunn (a three year letterman) last season if he hadn't been injured. The talent is definitely there. We just need for them to take charge and respond. The senior leadership in the linebacking and secondary slots should help push them."

One player Walden will be counting heavily on is senior free safety Mark DouBrava (6-0, 192).

DouBrava, a first team All-Big Eight and second team Associated Press selection a year ago, returns after leading the team with 99 tackles. But while individual honors have come easily, it's team success which is foremost on his mind.

"Everyone wants to go out with a successful season," DouBrava said. "Last year was really disappointing. We all thought we would do better than we did. It was just a bad situation

CYCLONE DEPTH CHART

(following spring game/classifications are for 1992 fall semester) *indicates letters earned

OFFENSE

SE	**	Chris Spencer	6-4	199	Sr
	**	Brandon Hughes	6-2	191	Jr
ST	*	Todd McClish	6-5	319	Sr
		Brian Wilkinson	6-6	274	Soph
SG	*	Tony Booth	6-3	263	Soph
		Mark Konopka	6-3	275	Soph
C	**	Scott Armburst	6-3	272	Sr
		Mark Wagner	6-1	275	Jr
WG	*	Lawrence Roberts	6-5	267	Jr
		Scott Klug	6-4	250	Fr
WT	**	Doug Skartvedt	6-3	308	Jr
		Byron Heitz	6-5	287	Fr
QB	**	Bob Utter	5-10	173	Soph
	*	Kevin Caldwell	6-2	190	Soph
TB	*	Jim Knott	6-0	203	Soph
	***	Sherman Williams	5-7	169	Sr
FB	*	Leonard Holmes	5-11	187	Soph
	*	Jay Jordan	6-1	210	Soph
TE	**	Hussein Warmack	6-3	237	Jr
	*	Dan Dostal	6-5	215	Soph
FL	**	Lamont Hill	5-9	172	Jr
	*	James McMillion	5-10	177	Jr
K	*	Ty Stewart	5-11	172	Soph

DEFENSE

RE	*	Shane Dunlevy	6-4	249	Sr
		Nick Clausen	6-5	236	Soph
RT	*	Troy Petersen	6-4	268	Soph
		Travis Cox	6-6	262	Jr
LT	*	Todd Miller	6-4	256	Sr
		Jim Thompson	6-5	225	Soph
LE	*	George Conditt	6-4	236	Jr
		Kevin Fleecs	6-3	220	Fr
LB	***	Dan Watkins	6-3	239	Sr
	*	Scott Shultz	6-4	227	Soph
LB	**	Dan Milner	6-1	232	Sr
	**	Malcolm Goodwin	6-2	215	Sr
LB	**	Matt Nitchie	6-2	190	Jr
	*	Jeff Cole	6-1	233	Soph
RC	***	Shawn Walker	5-11	167	Sr
	*	Weylan Harding	5-10	184	Soph
LC	**	Andrew Buggs	6-1	180	Sr
	***	Kevin Lazard	6-0	189	Jr
SS	*	Kevin Fulton	6-1	180	Soph
	*	Dwayne Armstrong	5-10	190	Sr
FS	***	Mark DouBrava	6-0	192	Jr
	*	Cedric Linwood	5-11	170	Soph
P	**	Jon Schnoor	6-0	169	Sr

QUICK LOOK BACK

1991 RECORD

3-7-1

Eastern Illinois	(W) 42-13
Iowa	(L) 29-10
at Wisconsin	(L) 7-6
at Rice	(W) 28-27
Oklahoma	(L) 29-8
at Kansas	(L) 41-0
Oklahoma State	(T) 6-6
at Missouri	(W) 23-22
Kansas State	(L) 37-7
at Nebraska	(L) 38-13
Colorado	(L) 17-14

CONFERENCE FINISH:
Sixth

TOTAL OFFENSE (Conf):
275.45 yards (8th)

TOTAL DEFENSE (Conf):
371.8 yards (6th)

STARTERS RETURNING:
Offense — 9
Defense — 7
Specialists — 2

with a lot of people getting hurt. This year has to be real big.

"I've had only one winning season here so I'd really like to turn things around this season."

Along with DouBrava, the Cyclones return six starters in the linebacking and secondary positions.

Dan Watkins (6-3, 239, sr.) is the anchor at strong-side linebacker. Watkins recorded 49 tackles in eight games last season including a team-high four sacks. Dan Milner (6-1, 232, sr.) and Matt Nitchie (6-2, 190, jr.) combined for 187 tackles at middle and weak-side linebacker respectively.

Flanking DouBrava at strong safety will be sophomore Kevin Fulton (6-1,180). Fulton had his best game in the tie against OSU when he racked up 10 tackles, blocked a field goal, recovered a fumble and intercepted a pass.

The cornerback slots are manned by a tandem of quality seniors.

Andrew Buggs (6-1, 180) missed spring drills while recuperating from what could have been a career-ending shoulder injury, but should nail down the left-corner position. Right-corner is locked up by Shawn Walker (5-11, 167) who recorded 38 tackles and a team-high nine pass breakups last season.

"I feel great about our secondary and our linebackers could be the best since I've been here," Walden said. "Our defensive backs should be better than people say and that should allow us to be competitive."

One of Walden's priorities this spring was to come up with an offense which could be competitive with the numbers returning. Look for ISU to work out of a triple-threat offensive set with more passing than last year.

The key to making this offensive scheme work is having a healthy quarterback — a luxury not available a year ago.

The Cyclones looked to be in capable hands early with senior Chris Pedersen operating the offense. Then came the now infamous Kansas game.

Pedersen went down early and three quarters and three different quarterbacks later, a converted true freshman tailback, Kevin Caldwell (6-2, 190), was finishing the game as the signal caller.

Caldwell played some quarterback in high school, but was being used primarily as a receiver. His lack of a strong arm forced Walden to scrap the multiple offensive attack in favor of an option game. Caldwell finished the season rushing for 428 yards and com-



A converted running back, flanker Lamont Hill (left) has big play potential after the reception. Getting the ball to him may fall to the hands of second-string quarterback Kevin Caldwell (below) if injuries continue in the Cyclone camp.

Photos by William Lauer.



pleting 32-of-57 for 416 yards and one touchdown.

Caldwell may have been the savior of sorts last season, but sophomore Bob Utter (5-10, 173) will get the start when fall drills begin. Utter gives Walden the strong-armed, dropback look he needs to operate the offense. Before going down against Kansas, he had completed 16-of-28 for 186 yards.

"The quarterbacking thing just frightens me anymore because when you get your No. 1 and 2 quarterbacks hurt early, you get kind of squeamish," Walden said. "An experience like that scares the hell out of you."

Whether it's Caldwell or Utter at the Cyclone helm come August, one thing is certain — there are plenty of quality receivers returning to pull in the passes.

Split end Chris Spencer (6-4, 199, sr.) led the Cyclones with 25 receptions for 356 yards before the change in offense. James McMillion (5-10, 177, jr.) and Lamont Hill (5-9, 172, jr.) are speedy flankers with game-breaking ability.

McMillion utilized his speed on the punt return team (which finished the year ranked third in the country) as a return man. With an average return of 14.76 yards, McMillion was ranked as high as fifth in the country. Hill, a converted running back, racked up 22 receptions for 316 yards in a limited roll.

The big questions on offense are the offensive line and the backfield.

The good news is that all five guys who finished the year as starters on the line are back. The bad news is beyond them there are few others.

Strong tackle Todd McClish (6-5, 319, sr.), strong guard Tony Booth (6-3, 263, soph.), center Scott Armbrust (6-3, 272, sr.), weak guard Lawrence Roberts (6-5, 267, jr.) and weak tackle Doug Skartvedt (6-3, 308, jr.) are quality linemen with experience.

ISU history dictates that offensive linemen don't last long. By the end of last season Walden was trying to convert any big body in an effort to put together a decent two deep.

Backing at the five spots are a couple of redshirt freshmen, two sophomores and a junior. None of the five have earned a letter.

"The offensive line may be my scariest concern because of the lack of numbers," Walden said. "We've only got about 12 working here. The quality isn't bad, but if anyone goes down, we could be in a real bad situation."

The situation isn't much better behind the line.

Sophomore Jim Knott (6-0, 203) appears to have the edge at tailback, but Sherman Williams (5-7, 169, sr.) will push again in the fall. Knott (223 yards on 45 carries) barely edged out Williams (206 yards on 52 runs) last year in rushing.

At fullback, the loss of Sundiata Patterson (dismissed for fighting) takes away veteran leadership and depth. Trying to fill the void will be sophomore Leonard Holmes (5-11, 187) who rushed for 147 yards as a true freshman.

The kicking duties are in good shape with senior John Schnoor (6-0, 169) punting and sophomore Ty Stewart (5-11, 172) placekicking. Stewart hit 12-of-17 field goals and was a second team all-league kicker. Schnoor averaged 39.4 yards a punt and finished sixth in the conference.

"We could have a real good team this year as long as we stay healthy," Walden said. "When we do, people will be asking, 'Where did they come from.' It's just been a slow, steady progressive thing.

"Any success we have this year won't have been an overnight success. It will have been from beating the odds with low numbers and hard work."■

OKLAHOMA STATE Cowboys

'92 Campaign Slogan: Bury the Past, Move Forward

The gravesite had already been dug and the coffin built as the crowd gathered at the place of interment.

Actually the plot had been dug for some time; it was just a matter of patiently waiting for the final breaths of the contents.

The preacher, decked out in a colorful tie and slacks, arrived precisely at noon and pulled the sheet off the three-foot long wooden coffin directly behind him. After laying some flowers in front of the particle-board casket, he moved quickly toward the podium to offer last words concerning the dearly departed.

"You don't know how long I've been waiting for this to end," said the preacher as the room erupted with laughter.

While this may seem like a sick excerpt from a Stephen King novel, it was actually how Oklahoma State Head Coach Pat Jones opened his final press luncheon last year.

Jones proceeded to pull out three legal sized pieces of paper with the numbers 1989, 1990 and 1991 written on them in dark magic marker. The numbers represented the three years Jones' program had been suffering the consequences of NCAA probation.

OSU was slapped with three years probation, scholarship reductions and no television or post-season chances appearances.

As the paper numbered 1991 was shoved into the casket, Jones said, "This paper is damn sure going in. The sanctions are over with now and we're glad this period of time is over with."

The three-year period began in January following a stellar 1988 season that saw the Cowboys cap a 10-1 season with a 62-14 drilling of Wyoming in the Holiday Bowl. Oh yeah, there was also this little tailback named Barry Sanders who broke a few records en route to winning the Heisman Trophy.

But the celebrations ended quickly as former OSU receiver All-American Hart Lee Dykes told NCAA investigators of wrongdoing in Stillwater, Okla. The skid was on.

OSU blundered through two 4-7 years in '89 and '90 before suffering through the school's worst season in history, finishing 0-10-1 last year.

The final breath of probation was taken when the Pokes were handed a 36-26 loss at home by Kansas State. While a team can never get used to losing, the Cowboys were able to let out a big sigh of relief in the locker room following the game.

"It was tough to go through the last few years, especially this one," said former first team All-Big Eight selection Stacey Satterwhite after the game. "But just knowing that this team kept its spirit up through all this makes me think next year will be a lot different."

In an effort to get things focused on the year ahead and not what has gone before, Jones presented the team with tee shirts prior to spring drills that read "Make it happen in 1992."

"We came out of it a tougher football team and that was goal No. 1," Jones said. "We've got some junior college kids coming in and that should help us physically and get us going.

"Right now I'm taking the stance that until we prove otherwise, you've got to pick us last in the conference."

While last season (which isn't discussed anymore on the OSU campus) had its share of downs (like finishing last in the conference), it did provide Jones with a chance to evaluate some new players in game situations.

One who shined and did nothing to tarnish that image during spring drills was sophomore tailback Rafael Denson (5-foot-8, 175).

Denson, heralded as the next in a long line of great backs to play on Lewis Field (Sanders, Thurman Thomas, Earnest Anderson and Gerald Hudson), was put into action in the first game of the season, against Tulsa on the road. In the loss, Denson responded for 88 yards in the rain. Denson finished the season with 569 yards on 150 carries while hampered by an ankle injury.

Not bad for a freshman.

"He's definitely got some special in him," Jones said.

During OSU's three major scrimmages this spring, Denson rushed for 300 yards while sharing the backfield with Mark Williams (5-11, 195, fr.). Since January, Denson has hit the weight room religiously and bulked up from 160 pounds. Williams also had an impressive spring before missing the final week with turf toe.

The Pokes also look solid at fullback with redshirt sophomores Roger Franks (6-0, 242) and Rod Sanders (5-11, 235) back. Franks is an all-around back who can run around or over an opponent. His blocking seemed to pick up over the spring, so look for big things from this guy.

The big backfield question this spring was who would be calling the signals for Jones. With all the leftovers from the Mike Gundy era gone (Kenny Ford and Earl Wheeler both used up their eligibility and part-time starter Brent Scott transferred to a junior college), no one was left who had taken a snap last season.

An answer may have come in the form of Southwestern College (Calif.) transfer Derek Chapman (6-4, 215, soph.). Chapman handled most of the signal calling during the spring finishing 34-of-61 for 417 yards, six touchdowns and three interceptions. Chapman will be pushed for the start in the fall when highly touted junior college star Andy Loveland arrives.

"We tried to keep things simple

offensively during the spring," Jones said. "The quarterback situation is a long way from decided. Derek has got some ability, is smart and has a good arm. We've been very pleased to this point.

"Offensively we kept it simple enough so that we can plug these guys (Loveland and Gary Porter of Tomball High School, Texas) in and have a legitimate chance of making something happen. Theoretically the quarterback thing could run through the opener."

Decided or not, Chapman bought himself some bargaining power with his ability to get the ball to the talented group of receivers the Pokes have coming back. There's tons of talent and depth at split end, flanker and tight end.

Bert Milliner (5-6, 150, jr.) proved to be a crafty receiver with tailback speed last year while finishing second in the conference in pass catching. Milliner had a big spring finishing with four grabs for 81 yards and two touchdowns.

At flanker, Mark Cheatwood (5-9, 180, fr.) returns after having an all-league year with 18 receptions for 230 yards. Fred Thomas (6-1, 180, fr.) and Russell Claybrook (6-0, 190, fr.) also got some looks and will be solid backups. Tight end is loaded with returning starter Scott Copeland (6-3, 245, jr.), Steve Keith (6-3, 220, soph.) and Derek Jones (6-2, 240, soph.).

The loss of two offensive line starters and a part-timer has Jones looking for bodies to plug gaping holes.

Matt Jose (6-4, 290, soph.) has moved from tackle to center. Jose has started 15 games since his freshman year at the the tackle spot. Other returners are left guard Anthony Greenlee (6-1, 305, soph.) and right tackle Mike Butler (6-2, 278, soph.). A reserve tackle a year ago, Joe Bob Warner (6-4, 278, jr.) looks to be in the hunt for right guard. Left tackle is still wide open with Long Beach State transfer Shane Hudson (6-6, 280, jr.), Lee Gilchrest (6-5, 265, soph.) and Jason Kirkland (6-3, 247, soph.) all in the hunt.

Beyond this group things begin to look thin.

The biggest blow on defense occurred at the tackle spots with the loss of a pair of four-year lettermen in Satterwhite and Brandon Colbert. Wendall Gaines (6-5, 280, soph.) and Andre Thompson (6-4, 250, jr.) have been moved from end spots to fill the slots. Thompson had a good year with 35 tackles while Gaines racked up 14 in a limited role.

If the tackles are the weakness of the defense then the ends and linebackers should be more than able to pick up the slack.

Offenses beware — Jason Gildon is back.

Gildon, a 6-4, 220-pound, sophomore All-American, returns at right end after scoring 65 tackles and a league leading 16 sacks. He broke former All-American Leslie O'Neal's sack record and just dominated the game last year with 48 tackles.

Joining Gildon up front will be converted linebacker Mike Woolridge (6-3, 225, jr.). Woolridge, who has seen some time at the position, led the team in tackles last season with 85.

The linebackers look tough with Chaucer Funchess (6-3, 215, jr.) and

Rafael Denson (22) bulked up 10 pounds during the spring and should be a little tougher to slow down. *Photo by Brian Beard.*



COWBOY DEPTH CHART

(following spring game/classifications are for 1992 fall semester) *indicates letters earned.

OFFENSE

SE	*	Bert Milliner	5-6	150	Jr
	**	Brad McCone	6-1	185	Jr
LT		Shane Hudson	6-6	280	Jr
		Lee Gilchrest	6-5	265	Soph
LG	**	Anthony Greenlee	6-1	305	Soph
		Brian Best	6-3	260	Soph
C	**	Matt Jose	6-4	290	Soph
	*	Scott Hall	6-2	290	Soph
RG	**	Joe Bob Warner	6-4	278	Jr
		Ozzie Zuaznabar	6-3	273	Fr
RT	**	Mike Butler	6-2	278	Soph
		Chad Brown	6-5	263	Fr
TE	***	Scott Copeland	6-3	245	Jr
	*	Steve Keith	6-3	225	Soph
FL	*	Mark Cheatwood	5-9	180	Fr
		Fred Thomas	6-1	180	Fr
QB		Derek Chapman	6-4	215	Soph
		Alex Goodpaster	6-3	215	Fr
FB	*	Roger Franks	6-0	242	Soph
	*	Rod Sanders	5-11	235	Soph
TB	*	Rafael Denson	5-8	175	Fr
	*	Russell Berrien	5-9	196	Fr
K	*	Ricky Myers	5-11	185	Fr
		Bryan Leinart	5-6	160	Fr

DEFENSE

LE	***	Mike Woolridge	6-3	225	Jr
	*	Tyler Williams	6-2	236	Fr
RE	**	Jason Gildon	6-4	220	Soph
	**	Eric Garmond	6-3	267	Jr
LT	*	Wendall Gaines	6-5	280	Soph
		Matt Parker	6-4	225	Fr
RT	*	Andre Thompson	6-4	250	Jr
	*	Elmer Williams	6-3	290	Jr
LB	*	Chaucer Funchess	6-3	215	Jr
	*	George Bright	6-1	225	Jr
LB	*	Arthur Davis	5-11	232	Jr
		Jason Bufford	6-0	235	Fr
LB	*	Carlos Erving	6-1	220	Jr
		Brian Hamilton	6-3	210	Soph
LC	*	Tharon Tircuit	5-10	180	Fr
		Charles Ladson	5-8	190	Jr
SS	**	Cornell Cannon	6-1	200	Jr
	**	Terry Henley	5-10	190	Jr
FS	**	Scott Harmon	5-8	190	Soph
	**	Charles Verner	6-1	200	Soph
RC	**	Todd Fisher	5-11	176	Jr
	*	Dmitri Markham	5-9	198	Fr
P		Scott Tyner	6-0	185	Soph
		Kyle Harris	6-3	175	Jr

QUICK LOOK BACK

1991 RECORD

0-10-1

at Tulsa	(L) 13-7
Arizona State	(L) 30-3
TCU	(L) 24-21
at Miami	(L) 40-3
Nebraska	(L) 49-15
at Missouri	(L) 41-7
at Iowa State	(T) 6-6
Kansas	(L) 31-0
Colorado	(L) 16-12
at Oklahoma	(L) 21-6
Kansas State	(L) 36-26

CONFERENCE FINISH:
Eighth

TOTAL OFFENSE (Conf):
276.64 yards (7th)

TOTAL DEFENSE (Conf):
380.4 yards (7th)

STARTERS RETURNING:
Offense — 6
Defense — 6
Specialists — 1

George Bright (6-1, 225, jr.) leading the way at the strong side. Bright was an instant success as a freshman, but has only recently transferred back from a junior college. Funchess was a 74-tackle man a year ago. Arthur Davis (5-11, 232, jr.) will be the man in the middle with Carlos Erving (6-1, 220, jr.) moving from cornerback to the weak-side position.

The secondary returns its top two tacklers in safeties Cornell Cannon (6-1, 200, jr.) and Scott Harmon (5-8, 190, soph.). Harmon recorded 85 tackles and tied for a league leading six interceptions at the free spot. Cannon has had a strong spring building on his 40 stops from a year ago.

The fight is still underway at right corner as both Todd Fisher (5-11, 176, jr.) and converted receiver Dmitri Markham (5-9, 189, fr.) battle for the job. Left corner seems more settled with Tharon Tircuit (5-10, 180, fr.) moving into the job after backing Cannon last season.

"Last year, by and large, we played well enough to win and had a couple of outstanding performances," Jones said. "Replacing guys like Satterwhite and Clark is hard, but physically I think we can compete with the group we have."

Helping the Cowboys compete will be junior college All-American punter Scott Tyner. The junior, who averaged 50 yards a boot in the spring game, has been unloading all spring and is already being compared by Jones to former OSU standouts Cliff Parsley and John Conway. Both averaged nearly 43 yards a punt for their careers.

Sophomore Rick Myers has also looked sharp this spring and should improve on last season's 7-of-12 field goal record.

After dropping Miami and adding Indiana State to its already tough schedule (with road games at Michigan and Texas Christian and a home standoff with Tulsa), OSU looks to have a better chance.

With road games against Nebraska and Colorado, early victories could give the Pokes enough confidence so they won't have to dig up the coffin and bury 1992. ■

Jason Gildon, a starter since his freshman year, will be wreaking havoc on offenses once again.

Photo by Brian Beard.


83
OKLAHOMA
87

	COLORADO	IOWA ST.	KANSAS	KANSAS ST.	MISSOURI	NEBRASKA	OKLAHOMA	OKLAHOMA STATE
SEPTEMBER 5	Colorado State	Ohio	at Oregon State			Utah	at Texas Tech (Sept. 3)	Indiana State
SEPTEMBER 12	at Baylor	at Iowa	Ball State		at Illinois	Middle Tenn. State	Arkansas State	
SEPTEMBER 19	at Minnesota	Tulane	at Tulsa	Montana	Texas A & M	at Washington	USC	at Michigan
SEPTEMBER 24			California					
SEPTEMBER 26	Iowa	Northern Iowa		Temple	at Indiana	Arizona State		Tulsa
OCTOBER 3		at Oklahoma		New Mexico State	Marshall		Iowa State	at Texas Christian
OCTOBER 8	at Missouri				Colorado			
OCTOBER 10			Kansas State	at Kansas		Oklahoma State	Texas vs (at Dallas)	at Nebraska
OCTOBER 17	Oklahoma	Kansas	at Iowa State	Utah State	at Oklahoma St.		at Colorado	Missouri
OCTOBER 24	Kansas State	at Oklahoma St.	Oklahoma	at Colorado	Nebraska	at Missouri	at Kansas	Iowa State
OCTOBER 31	at Nebraska	Missouri	Oklahoma State	at Oklahoma	at Iowa State	Colorado	Kansas State	at Kansas
NOVEMBER 7	Oklahoma State	at Kansas State	at Nebraska	Iowa State	at Oklahoma	Kansas	Missouri	at Colorado
NOVEMBER 14	at Kansas	Nebraska	Colorado	at Missouri	Kansas State	at Iowa State	at Oklahoma St.	Oklahoma
NOVEMBER 21	Iowa State	at Colorado	at Missouri	Oklahoma State	Kansas			at Kansas State
NOVEMBER 27						at Oklahoma	Nebraska	
DECEMBER 5 (6 in Japan)				Nebraska vs (Tokyo, Japan)		Kansas State vs (Tokyo, Japan)		

1992 BIG EIGHT COMPOSITE SCHEDULE

Away



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THE NONCONF

Avoiding one-dimensional tags, Nebraska prepares for

No one can criticize Nebraska of having a one-dimensional preseason schedule this fall.

The Huskers will face as wide a range of nonconference opponents in 1992 as they have in many years. After opening against Utah in Memorial Stadium Sept. 5, Nebraska plays Middle Tennessee State in Lincoln and travels to Seattle to meet Washington before completing nonconference play against Arizona State at home.

Washington will again be the Huskers' most prominent nonconference opponent. The Huskies scored 27 unanswered points in last year's 36-21 win against Nebraska in Lincoln before going on to share the national championship with Miami.

Washington rides a 14-game winning streak into the 1992 season and figures to be among the preseason favorites to repeat as national champs. The Huskies return 13 starters, including All-America linebacker Dave Hoffmann.

Two starting quarterbacks are back and so are a pair of running backs who both gained more than 100 yards against the Huskers.

Another Pac-10 Conference member, Arizona State, should challenge Nebraska.

New Sun Devil Coach Bruce Snyder will use defense in an attempt to bring the same success he enjoyed at California to ASU.

Utah will bring to Lincoln an experienced offensive team that features 10 returning starters, including a 2,000-yard passer, a 1,000-yard rusher and a 1,000-yard receiver.

Middle Tennessee State, a late Division I-AA addition to NU's schedule, may not appear to be much of a challenge. But MTSU has experienced success in its division and has given recent Division I opponents reasonably close games.

Here's a brief look at the Cornhuskers' nonconference opponents:

UTAH
Sept. 5 in Lincoln

The Utes could be labeled offensive in 1992.

All but one starter on offense returns for third-year Utah Coach Rick Rasnick, whose 1991 club averaged 23 points in posting a 7-5 overall record and a fourth-place finish in the Western Athletic Conference.

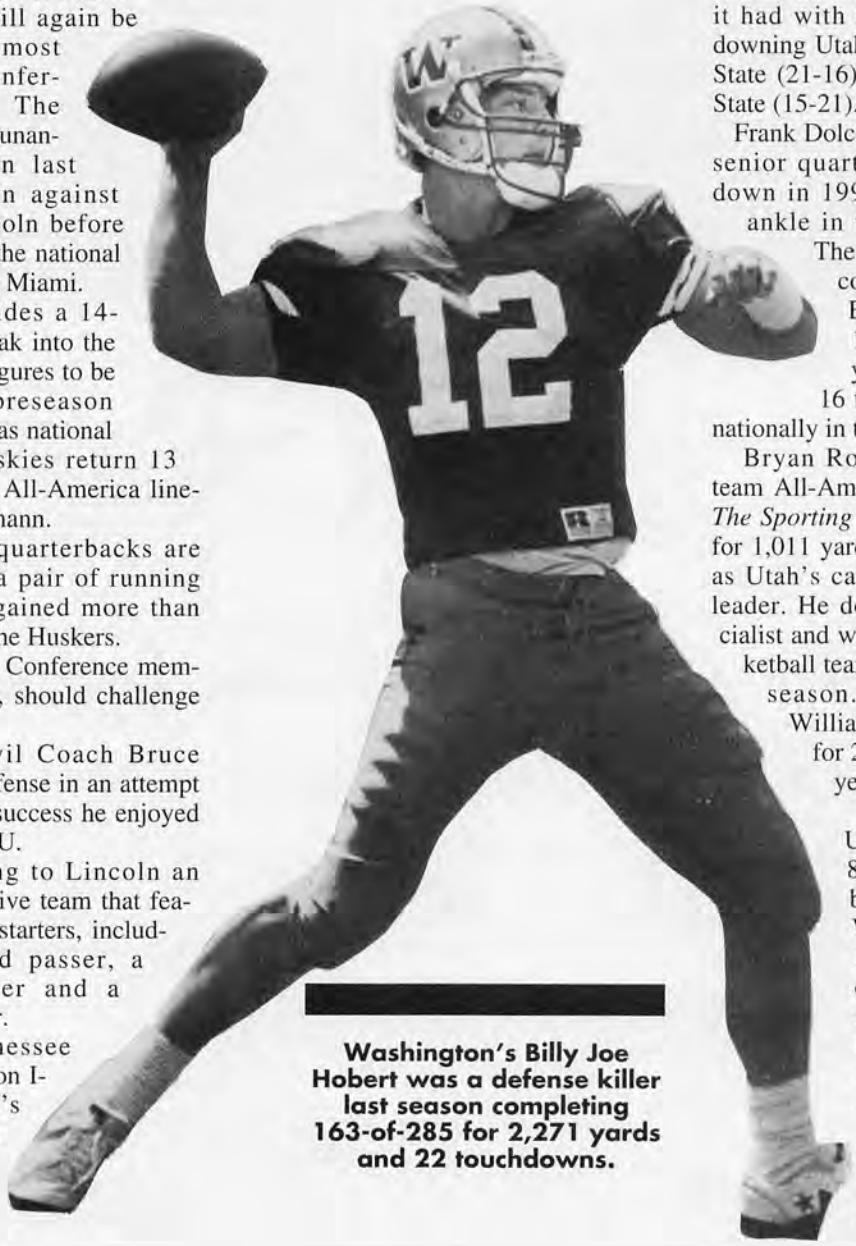
Rasnick expects to continue improving the Ute program after going 11-12 in the opening two years of his first head coaching job. Utah defeated two of the three common opponents it had with Nebraska last season, downing Utah State (12-7), Colorado State (21-16) then losing to Arizona State (15-21).

Frank Dolce, a 6-foot-1, 203-pound senior quarterback, played every down in 1991 before breaking an ankle in the next-to-last game. The former first-team junior college All-American for El Camino completed 177-of-314 passes last year for 2,444 yards and 16 touchdowns to rate 17th nationally in total offense.

Bryan Rowley, named second-team All-American wide receiver by *The Sporting News*, caught 60 passes for 1,011 yards last season and ranks as Utah's career reception yardage leader. He doubles as a return specialist and walked on to the Ute basketball team following the football season. Wide receiver Sean Williams made 27 receptions for 290 yards as a junior last year.

On the ground, the Utes will again feature 5-8, 189-pound junior tailback Keith Williams. Williams racked up five 100-yard games in 1991 during a 1,076-yard season, which ranks third in Ute history. He scored six touchdowns and caught 24 passes.

Blocking for Williams and protecting Dolce will be veterans Russ Dailey (6-5,



Washington's Billy Joe Hobert was a defense killer last season completing 163-of-285 for 2,271 yards and 22 touchdowns.

ERENCE FOES

By Rod Henkel

one of its most balanced nonconference schedules in years.

275), Mike DeHoog (6-5, 287), Roy Ma'afala (6-3, 255), Mark Barton (6-3, 280), and Tom McNitt (6-3, 265).

The Ute defense is not as intact as the offense, but seven starters do return.

Senior Reggie Alston, a 6-1, 230-pound free safety, is being touted by Utah officials as an All-America candidate after leading the Utes with 139 tackles in 1991. He will likely be joined in the defensive backfield by returning starters Sharrieff Shah (6-0, 190) at strong safety and cornerback Mark Swanson (5-9, 181).

Defensive linemen Dave Chaytors (6-2, 255) and Blaine Berger (6-5, 280) return. Berger was Utah's fifth-leading tackler with 68 total stops last season.

At linebacker, second-leading tackler Anthony Davis is gone, but 1990 starter Pita Tonga and 1991 starter Errol Martin are back. Chris Yergensen was Utah's placekicker a year ago and Steve Young averaged 40.4 yards on 62 punts.







The strength of Rick Rasnick's (top) Utah squad will be its offense which is captained by 2,444 yard passing quarterback Frank Dolce (middle) and tailback Keith Williams (bottom).

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE
Sept. 12 in Lincoln

Fourteen-year Middle Tennessee Coach James (Boots) Donnelly will bring one of the top NCAA Division I-AA programs to Lincoln. And the Blue Raiders are experienced at facing the big boys.

Last year's MTSU club went 9-4, placed second in the Ohio Valley Conference with a 6-1 record, played in the I-AA playoffs for the third straight year and finished among the Division's top 10 teams in every national poll. Half of the Blue Raiders' four losses came against Division I opponents Florida State (39-10) and Cincinnati (30-10).

The 1990 MTSU team finished 11-2 and was rated No. 1 in the official I-AA poll before losing its top two quarterbacks to injuries and being knocked out of the playoffs in the quarterfinals. Donnelly expects another banner season in 1992

"It looks as though it's going to be another exciting year," he says.

Donnelly bases his high expectations on the return of 14 starters, but there is one catch. Seven of the 10 departed starters played on either the offensive or defensive lines.

"The line, on either side of the ball, is the engine that makes the team go," Donnelly says. "And we've got a lot of experience and skill to replace up front. We are fortunate, though, in that we have some pretty talented youngsters moving in behind the starters we lost."

Lone returning offensive line starter Steve McAdoo, a 6-4, 282-pound senior, has been named to at least one first-team All-American team each of the past two seasons. Sophomores Pat Hicks (6-2, 275) and David Watson (6-4, 235) should anchor the guard positions, while junior Anthony Crabtree (6-2, 220) will likely start at center.

Guard Randy Houston, a 6-2, 240-pound senior, is the only returning interior defensive lineman. "We have experience nearly everywhere except in the two lines," Donnelly said, "but, unfortunately, it takes solid line play to allow your other talents to reach their potentials."

On offense, the Blue Raiders must replace their all-time career leader in rushing yards (3,823), touchdowns (45) and scoring (270 points). Joe Campbell was picked in the NFL draft after rushing for 1,121 yards and 14 touchdowns in 1991.



Middle Tennessee tailback Walter Dunson (16) set a school record after rushing for four touchdowns against Murray State.



Blue Raider quarterback Kelly Holcomb completed 130-of-209 passes for 1,763 yards and five touchdowns as a freshman last year.

Walter Dunson is the heir-apparent at tailback. The 5-9, 170-pound senior gained 621 yards and scored 13 touchdowns last year as a backup. Starting fullback Walt Crowder (5-9, 190) returns for his senior season.

Sophomore Kelly Holcomb will again occupy the quarterback spot after stepping up to answer a serious question last season. Holcomb completed 62 percent of his 209 passes for 1,763 yards and five touchdowns. He threw only four interceptions. His two favorite receivers — tight end Steve Dark and split end Vice Parks — each return after catching more than 30 passes.

All five MTSU starters on the defensive perimeter are back. Danny Lawrence and Mike Caldwell return at defensive ends, Jamie Redmond and Adrian Owens are veteran cornerbacks and Andre Boykin is back as free safety. Two-year leading tackler Scott Boykin, a linebacker, graduated and sophomore Jabbar Troutman is the only returning backer with experience.

The Blue Raiders' kicking game should be solid, with placekicker Garth Petrilli and punter Joel Alsobrook back after impressive seasons.

WASHINGTON
Sept. 19 in Seattle

Husker fans know first-hand how explosive tradition-rich Washington can be and the Huskies expect no letdown in 1992.

The defending *USA Today*-CNN National Champions ride a 14-game winning streak into this season and seek to continue their string of 15 consecutive winning seasons in the Pac-10 Conference. With the return of 13 starters and 45 lettermen, the task should be easy for 1991 National College Coach of the Year, Don James.

Washington ranked second behind Miami in a 1992 Football Writers Association of America preseason top 20, which rated Nebraska 15th.

"First of all, this team is a lot different team than last year's," says James, the winningest coach in Pac-10 and Washington history, guiding the Huskies to post-season bowls 12 of the last 13 seasons. "This team doesn't have near the balance of strength and experience."

Gone are all-everything defensive tackle Steve Emtman and two other defensive linemen, All-American split end Mario Bailey and two other receivers, three offensive line starters and two four-time letter-winners on defense.

Emtman, the first pick of the 1992 NFL draft, spearheaded a Washington defense that allowed opponents only 67 rushing yards and 9.2 points last season. Junior end Andy Mason (6-2, 238) returns as the only defensive line starter.

Linebackers Jaime Fields (6-0, 230) and Dave Hoffmann (6-2, 225) will now anchor the defense. Hoffmann, a three-year starter, led the Huskies in tackles each of the past two seasons and earned All-America hon-

ors from the Football Writers Association.

Three starters — cornerback Walter Bailey, free safety Shane Pahukoa and rover Tommie Smith — all return in the secondary.

Three offensive linemen departed, but massive Lincoln Kennedy returns to lead seven lettermen in the trenches. Kennedy, a 6-7, 325-pound senior tackle, was an All-Pac 10 selection. Center Jim Nevelle also is back.

New receivers must be found. The other skilled positions, however, are full of explosive talent.

Tailback Beno Bryant and fullback Matt Jones lead a list of six veterans in James' backfield. Bryant gained 943 yards last season, while returner Jay Barry netted 718 yards. Sophomore Napoleon Kaufman added 307 yards. Jones has lost only 1 yard in 62 career carries.

"As a group, we have more experience than we've ever had," says James, referring to his offensive backfield. "We feel like we're three deep at both tailback and fullback with guys we feel comfortable with and who can play at this level."



Walter Bailey (left) is one of three-returning starters in the Huskies' secondary and (below) Lincoln Kennedy, an All-Pac 10 selection last season, anchors the offensive line.



It even gets better at quarterback.

The Rose Bowl Most Valuable Players the past two years will vie for the starting spot.

Billy Joe Hobert, a 6-3, 225-pound junior, was Washington's starter last year and threw for 2,271 yards on 163 completions in 285 attempts. He threw 22 touchdowns and 10 interceptions. Fifth-year senior Mark Brunell started as a 1990 sophomore but underwent knee surgery to repair tendons injured in spring practice that year. As a sophomore, the 6-2, 205-pound Brunell completed 118-of-253 passes for 1,732 yards and 14 touchdowns.

"I have never, as a coach, gone into spring ball with two quarterbacks who have accomplished what these two

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There is a limited amount of space available for the ***Husker All American Cruise***. Varsity Travel is now accepting $300.00 per person deposits for the cruise. All reservations will be issued on a first come, first served basis, and checks received after the cruise is sold out will be returned immediately. Make your reservations by June 20 and receive $100 savings per person *(some catagories not applicable)*.

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have," James says. "My thinking is that regardless of who wins the start, both quarterbacks will have to get to play, or have the opportunity to play. It's a situation that you could probably coach 100 years and wouldn't have it occur like this again."

ARIZONA STATE
Sept. 26 in Lincoln

Defense was Arizona State's strength last season and Coach Bruce Snyder inherits another promising defensive unit in his first year with the Sun Devils.

After guiding California to a 10-2 record and a No. 8 national ranking in 1991, Snyder begins his 30th year in coaching as ASU's 20th head football coach. The former Utah State head coach and Los Angeles Rams running backs coach claims to use wide-open football with aggressive defense.

"One of my major objectives as a coach is how hard the team plays," he says. "That's my signature on a team."

The Sun Devils, who finished fifth in the Pac-10 with a 4-4 conference record last season, allowed just 308 yards per game during a 6-5 campaign. Six defensive starters return from that unit and two additional 1990 starters return after medical redshirt seasons.

Inside linebackers Brett Wallerstedt and Justin Dragoo headline the defensive veterans. Wallerstedt, a 6-3, 239-pound senior, led ASU with 122 tackles last year and has 243 for his career. Outside linebacker Shante Carver, a 6-5, 229-pound junior, led the Pac-10 in sacks last year with 11 for minus 69 yards. Seniors Bryan Hooks and Mike Phair have starting experience.

Although the defensive line represents an area of major concern for Snyder, defensive ends Israel Stanley and Gavin Hill return as seniors after medically redshirting last fall.

Cornerback Kevin Miniefield leads ASU's secondary with two years of starting experience, while free safety Adam Brass also returns.

The Sun Devils limited Nebraska to a regular season-low 18 points last year, but managed the second-lowest point total (9) against the Blackshirts.

ASU's offense could be improved with 14 of the 22 athletes listed on the final 1991 two-deep chart returning.

Junior Bret Powers and senior Kurt Lasher both bring starting experience to the Sun Devils' quarterback position. Powers passed for 1,500 yards in 1991 on 54 percent completions while starting eight games, including the loss against Nebraska. Lasher earned three of his six career starts last year when Powers was injured.

A trio of rushers — sophomore Mario Bates (6-2, 207), 210-pound junior George Montgomery (ASU's leading ground gainer a year ago with 475 yards) and senior Jerone Davison (6-1, 235) — return, but the Sun Devils will likely feature a receiver.

Senior split end Eric Guliford (5-8, 160) led ASU with 55 receptions and 801 yards last season and ranks fourth on both career lists. He doubles as a punt return specialist. The Sun Devil media relations department rates Guliford as a "certain All-America candidate."

Junior center Toby Mills (6-3, 270) and senior Craig Ritter (6-4, 274) should spearhead an offensive line that lost three starters. ASU's kicking game returns both senior kicker Mike Richey and senior punter Steve Rausch.

The Sun Devils open the season with defending national champion Washington and host Louisville before traveling to Lincoln. Snyder previously coached against Nebraska in 1979, when his 9-2 Utah State club began its season with a 35-14 loss in Lincoln. ■



Sun Devil Eric Guliford is a legitimate threat at both punt returner and split end. He led the team with 55 catches for 801 yards last year.

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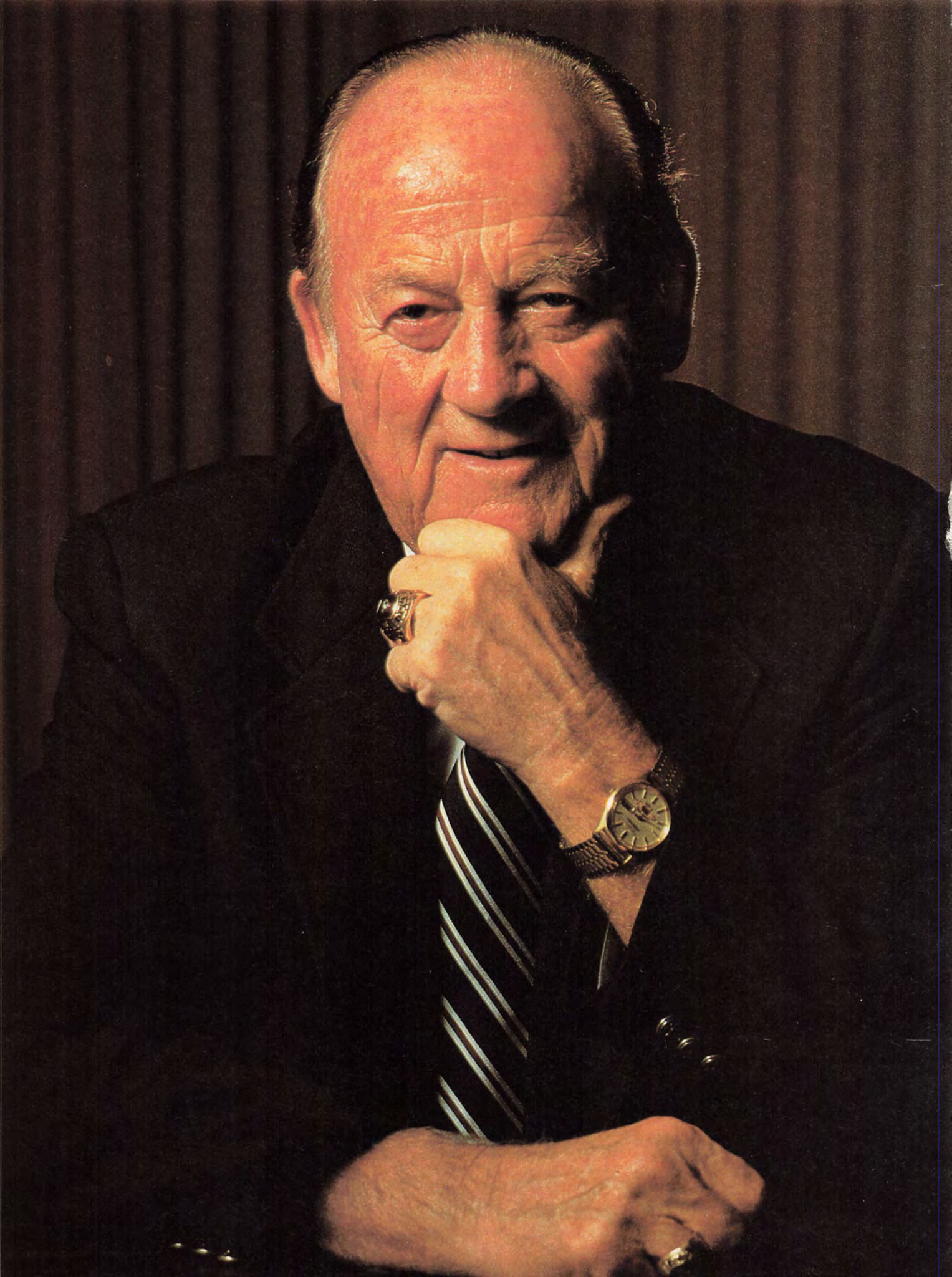
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THEY CALLED HIM "MR. ROBERTS"

The University of Nebraska athletic department, and the football program in particular, will forever carry the imprint of "Mr. Roberts."

To those old enough to remember another time, "Mr. Roberts" was the assumed name of a visitor to Lincoln in December of 1961. The visitor, a successful football coach from the University of Wyoming, was among those being considered as a replacement to Bill Jennings as Nebraska's coach.

Less than a month earlier, Jennings had been fired after a 21-14 loss to Oklahoma and a 3-6-1 season. In five seasons, Jennings' Nebraska teams had a combined 15-34-1 record.

"Mr. Roberts" wasn't high on Cornhusker Athletic Director William H. "Tippy" Dye's list of candidates, if the local news media were to be believed. But during his visit, "Mr. Roberts" was offered the job, contingent on his being released from a contract with Wyoming that had four years and eight months remaining.

"Mr. Roberts," of course, was Bob Devaney, who became Nebraska's 24th football coach and changed the course of Cornhusker football history.

Devaney came to Lincoln to interview for the job under a fictitious name because of an attempt on the part of university officials to ensure the confidentiality of their search.

Wyoming's reluctance to allow Devaney to leave was evidence of why, in his case at least, confidentiality needed to be maintained.

Thirty years have passed since Devaney came to Lincoln from Laramie, Wyo. The continuing success that began with his first team has obscured the enormity of what he accomplished.

Devaney, who will officially retire as athletic director on Jan. 1, 1993, arrived during hard times. Just how hard, well, let's go back.

It is the fall of 1962, specifically mid-September, the week before Nebraska's season-opener against South Dakota at Memorial Stadium.

During the previous 21 football seasons, following a trip to the Rose Bowl in 1941, the Cornhuskers have had an overall record of 75-125-4. In only three of those seasons have they won more games than they lost.

Except for the play of All-Americans Bobby Reynolds and Tom Novak, a trip to the Orange Bowl in 1954 and a victory that snapped Oklahoma's 74-game conference winning streak in 1959, there has been little in the last 21 years about which Cornhusker football fans could be excited.

The Cuban missile crisis, President John F. Kennedy's dramatic confrontation with the Soviet Union, is less than one month away.

U. Thant, the acting secretary general of the United Nations, is calling for a summit meeting between Kennedy and Soviet Premier Nikita Krushchev to discuss, among other things, the Berlin Wall.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration in Houston has announced that nine men have been added to the United States astronaut training program, among them Neil Armstrong, a civilian test pilot who would become the first man to set foot on the moon.

It is a time of social, political and scientific change.

With that as a backdrop, Devaney's first team prepared to play South Dakota. The Saturday before the opener,

By Mike Babcock

Bob Devaney's accomplishments are the modern fabric from which Nebraska's football tradition has been fashioned.

Photo by John Bills

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Devaney (right) and his staff which included Assistant Coaches Bill Thornton (left) and Mike Corgan (middle) made recruiting within the state a priority.

the Cornhuskers went through an intrasquad scrimmage.

Sharing the front sports page of the *Lincoln Sunday Journal and Star* with an account of the scrimmage was a story headlined: "Whopping $71,000 Loss for NU Sports." The athletic department budget had operated in the red during the previous fiscal year. Among the factors influencing the loss, according to the newspaper, were "bad weather, bad team, bad schedule." All three referred to football in 1961.

Although Nebraska fans were enthusiastic, attendance was erratic, going from a high of 35,387 for a 28-6 loss against national power Syracuse to a low of 26,139 for the 21-14 loss against Oklahoma in 1961.

Nebraska's on-going NCAA record of consecutive home sellouts is at 182 going into the 1992 season. The record began during Devaney's first season, when a Homecoming audience of 36,501 watched the Cornhuskers lose to conference rival Missouri 16-7.

Nebraska would lose only one other game in 1962, dropping a 34-6 decision to Oklahoma in Norman.

Two decades of frustration hadn't stifled the expectations of Cornhusker football fans. Devaney was hired for one reason — to win.

"I think the fans expected whoever they brought in to win," Devaney once said.

With those expectations came support. The key to returning the program to the national prominence it enjoyed in the 1920s and 1930s, "the No. 1 thing, the best reason I can figure, is the interest Nebraskans have in football," Devaney said.

"Without them, we don't get anything done. They gave us the means to build the best athletic program in the country and the best football program in the country."

Devaney's predecessor, Bill Jennings, also provided the means for success. "We were far from starting from scratch," said Devaney. "There were good players here, and there was a sincere desire to win."

Devaney was successful from the beginning, with players recruited by Jennings. Fourteen players on the 1962 team would eventually be drafted by the nation's two professional leagues.

In 1962, college football was a one-platoon game, which allowed for smaller squads and made Devaney's building project easier. In addition, the NCAA had yet to impose scholarship limits. "If you could get the 25 recruits you wanted here (in Nebraska), you could do it again (out of state)," said Devaney, who considered recruiting the best high school players in the state a priority.

One of the first things he did when he got to Nebraska was go on a goodwill tour of the state's high schools, meeting with coaches to establish lines of communication. Gale Sayers had left the state to attend Kansas. Devaney was determined to prevent that from happening again.

Under Devaney, the Cornhuskers played a numbers game in the all-important area of recruiting. Considering the increasing restrictions placed on scholarships by the NCAA, "I don't know if you could do it (what he did) again," Devaney said. "That's what's so impressive about what Tom Osborne is doing."

Certainly, the conditions were right for Devaney to be successful. But he still had to take advantage of them.

Nebraska's starting line for the 1962 opener averaged 224 pounds per man, while the starting backs weighed 195 pounds on the average. It was a big team for its time. And Bob Brown, a guard and linebacker, was the biggest, weighing in at 259 for the opener.

Brown, a Jennings recruit from Cleveland, Ohio, was the first All-American Devaney coached. One of the best-known anecdotes involving Brown illustrates Devaney's well-deserved reputation as a motivator.

Brown wasn't an enthusiastic practice player, according to Devaney. "He was either hurt or didn't want to play. If you wanted to find him, you looked in the training room first."

One afternoon when it appeared Brown wouldn't be practicing, Devaney told him a man in a three-piece suit, who was standing on the sideline watching the Cornhuskers, was an NFL scout. Devaney didn't know the man, much less his occupation. But the ploy worked. Brown not only practiced, he dominated in the contact drills.

Devaney's motivational skills went beyond such tricks, however. Once the season began, the team rarely scrimmaged during the week before a game. That was in contrast to Jennings' practice regimen, which included considerable contact.

Devaney concluded that the Cornhuskers had been so worn down physically in practice under Jennings that they couldn't play to the best of their ability in games. Less contact in practice produced more enthusiasm for the games. It was common sense.

An upcoming heavyweight championship fight between Floyd Patterson and Sonny Liston held the national headlines on the sports page the week

of the Nebraska-South Dakota football game in 1962. But locally, the news centered on Nebraska's new head football coach.

The Cornhuskers were heavy favorites against South Dakota. They were favored by 44 points according to the popular Dunkel ratings. The Coyotes had opened the week before, losing to Colorado State College 35-26.

Prior to the game, South Dakota's first-year head coach, Bob Burns, was quoted: "If Nebraska shoots off a cannon after every touchdown, the crowd may go home shell-shocked."

Devaney, of course, was wary of his team's overmatched opponent, pointing out that having played a game was a considerable advantage.

The Cornhuskers wore new uniforms for Devaney's debut as head coach. Brown, who had worn jersey No. 61 the previous season, was forced to wear his soon-to-be-familiar No. 64 after the new No. 61 jersey turned up missing from the equipment room the day before the game.

Despite a pleasant fall afternoon, a crowd of only 27,000, some 3,000 under estimates, watched the 1962 opener. With the passing of time, however, thousands more claim to have been there. Nebraska led only 19-0 at halftime but wore down the visitors from Vermillion, S.D., in the second half and won handily, 53-0. The score was Nebraska's highest since the 1945 season, when Potsy Clark's Cornhuskers also beat South Dakota 53-0.

Though victory was expected, Devaney surprised the fans with what was regarded as a departure from the run-oriented offense characteristic of Jennings' teams. By today's standards, the Cornhusker offense was groundbound in 1962. At the time, however, the new offense was considered balanced, if not innovative, at least for Nebraska.

The Cornhuskers attempted 17 passes against South Dakota, 11 of which were complete for 142 yards. The first touchdown of the Devaney Era came on a 29-yard pass play from quarterback John Faiman to end Larry Tomlinson.

Devaney has always maintained that Nebraska's first play from scrimmage was a pass, which drew a standing ovation from Cornhusker fans, even though it fell incomplete. Some things seem not to have changed.

Devaney used all 49 players who suited up and were healthy in the South Dakota game — 20 were backs.

Even so, there were skeptics. T*he Sunday Journal and Star* said the game proved two things. The first was that the Cornhuskers could "beat the stuffing out of South Dakota." The second was that "the days of 3 yards and a cloud of dust offenses are a thing of the past." However, the story continued, "how good the Huskers are will be answered after the Michigan game next week."

In looking at the schedule, Devaney

Continued on page 95

Search for New AD in the Works

In late March, University of Nebraska Chancellor Graham Spanier announced guidelines for finding a replacement for Bob Devaney as Cornhusker athletic director.

The process began immediately, with the acceptance of solicitation of candidates for the position. Spanier said a new athletic director should be identified by September, at the latest, and would assume duties in January.

A 10-member search committee is responsible for screening applications and checking references. The committee is chaired by James O'Hanlon, Dean of the Teachers College and Nebraska's faculty representative to the NCAA.

The athletic department is represented on the committee by Tony Samuel, an assistant football coach; Angela Beck, the Husker women's head basketball coach; and Don Bryant, an assistant athletic director and sports information director. Janet Kruse, a senior All-American on the volleyball team, also is a committee member.

The other members of the committee are: Don Benning, assistant superintendent of the Omaha Public Schools; Anne Campbell, former state superintendent of education; Richard Dientsbier, professor of psychology and chair of the UNL Intercollegiate Athletics Committee; Joan Laughlin, associate dean of the home economics department and former chair of the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee; and Keith Parker, assistant professor of sociology.

Spanier said the search would be nationwide, with prospects from as many as 200 to 300 candidates. "Our philosophy in conducting a search like this is to have the funnel open as wide as possible at the top, to have as many nominations and applications as we can, to bring everybody into the pool we should be considering."

Spanier's guidelines preclude Tom Osborne from becoming athletic director without first stepping down as head football coach.

Osborne has indicated he has no plans for retiring from coaching in the immediate future. Devaney has said, repeatedly, that he would prefer to continue as athletic director until Osborne is ready to quit coaching.

Spanier also discounted the possibility of naming an interim athletic director to fill the position until Osborne retires from coaching.

"It's hard to predict what will happen several years down the road," Spanier said. "We certainly want to keep all our options open, but we are committed, in January, to having a new athletic director."

Under a contract announced by the Board of Regents in July of 1991, Devaney will retire in January, after which he will be named athletic director emeritus and will be a consultant to the chancellor for development of intercollegiate athletics. The consultant's position will be for an indefinite period and can be terminated on 180 days' notice by either Devaney or the regents.

Devaney, who celebrated his 77th birthday in April, will continue to receive his full annual salary, set at $94,034, as long as he continues as a full-time consultant and fund-raiser.

Even so, Devaney has reservations about stepping down.

"I don't understand why they're pushing it (retirement)," he said of the regents when the contract was approved. "I don't understand why they can't be a little more reasonable and friendly to someone who's been around here as long as I have."

In announcing the guidelines for the search, Spanier said: "Whoever comes into this position will be replacing a legend. Bob Devaney will be a very tough act to follow. He has been largely responsible for building the intercollegiate athletics at the university." ■

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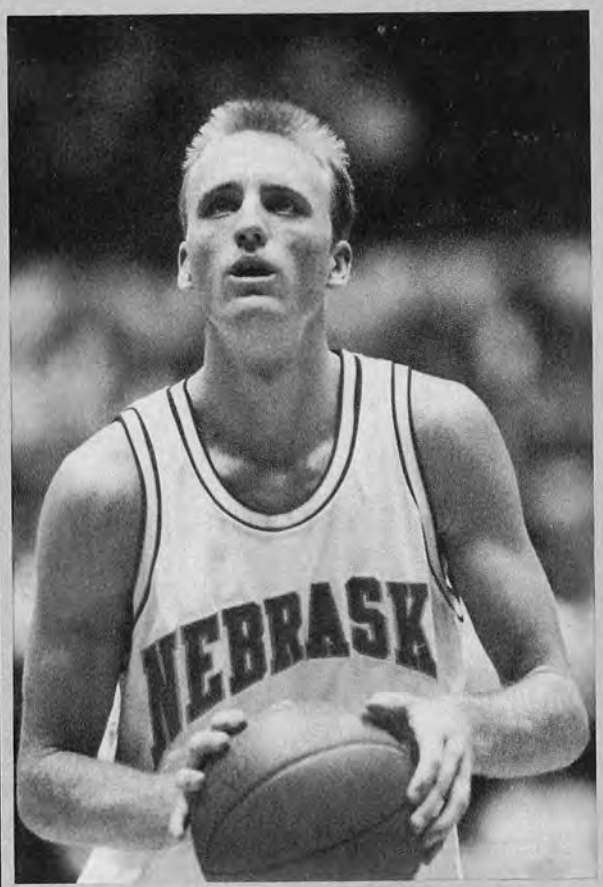
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the comeback KIDS

NU is gaining respect on the court.



Piatkowski, like the entire team, went cold against the Huskies hitting only 1-of-12 shots.
Photo by William Lauer.

A weary Nebraska basketball team fought the boredom of a delayed trip home following an 86-65 loss against Connecticut in the first round of the NCAA Southeast Regional in March.

The Cornhuskers were assembled in the lobby of the Clarion Hotel in downtown Cincinnati, only blocks from the Riverfront Coliseum, where their season ended late the previous night.

The ending had been inauspicious and swift. Six minutes into the game against a Connecticut team seeded one place below them at No. 9, the Cornhuskers trailed 20-7. Nebraska cut the deficit to 22-20 with 11:14 remaining in the first half, then Connecticut scored 17 of the game's next 18 points to eliminate whatever suspense was left.

To add insult to injury, Connecticut embarrassed the Cornhuskers without its leading rebounder and third-leading scorer, Rod Sellers, who was suspended for one game because of an incident involving Duke's Christian Laettner during the 1991 NCAA Tournament. Sellers watched from the bench in street clothes.

With such images still vivid, the Cornhuskers waited for the bus that would take them to the Cincinnati airport, located across the river in Covington, Ky., for the charter flight to Lincoln. "I woke up thinking about it," sophomore Eric Piatkowski said of the previous night. "It made me sick to my stomach."

Piatkowski led Nebraska in scoring in the 1991-92 season, averaging 14.3 points per game. But he struggled against Connecticut. The game was his worst of the season, and arguably the worst of his young career. It almost certainly was his worst shooting performance, and shooting is what Piatkowski does best. Yet against the Huskies, he made only 1-of-12 shots from the field, a three-pointer.

Piatkowski wasn't alone in his affliction that Friday after the Connecticut loss. The hangover was collective. "We're feeling down right now," he said. "But time will heal the wounds."

College-age kids are resilient. By the time the charter flight landed in Lincoln on that Friday evening, the Cornhuskers' spirits had picked up noticeably. Thoughts had turned to 1992-93. "We're still a very young team. I don't want to sound cocky, but people are going to be extremely surprised at how good we are next sea-

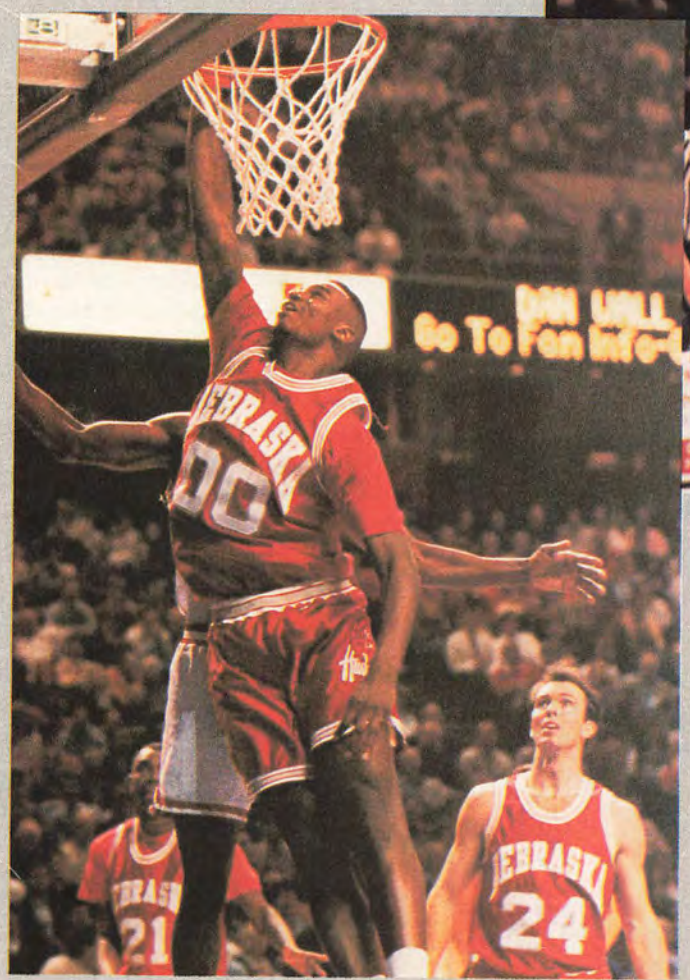
son," said Piatkowski. He predicted Nebraska would be ranked among the nation's Top 15 throughout the 1992-93 season.

Piatkowski's optimism regarding next season is justified, though a consistent Top 15 ranking probably isn't realistic. In addition to Piatkowski, several key players return, including Derrick Chandler, Jamar Johnson and Bruce Chubick.

Piatkowski had an outstanding sophomore season by just about any standard except the one he set for himself as a redshirted freshman, when he averaged 10.9 points playing an average of slightly less than 20 minutes per game coming off the bench. As a result, the expectations for his second season were unrealistically high.

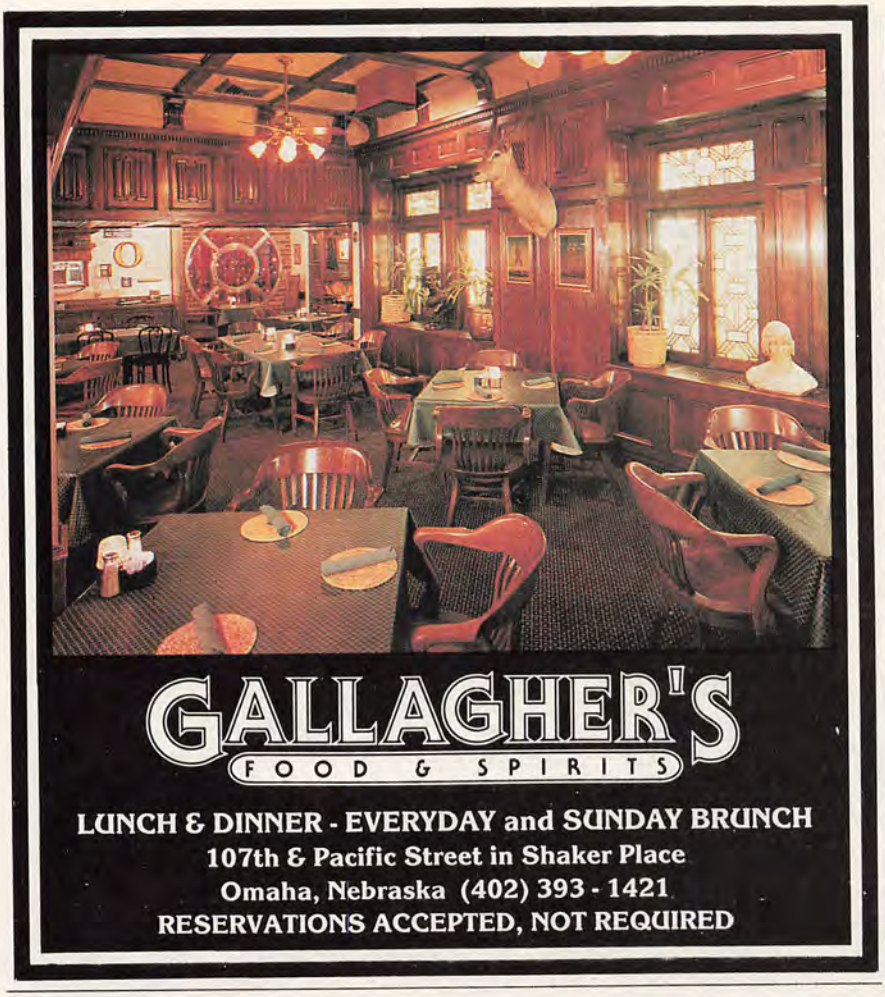
Piatkowski had to deal with different pressures, which came with being a starter, as well as the burden of those great expectations. He also had to





Bruce Chubick (above) developed into a sound player starting the final seven games, while Dapreis Owens (left) gave the Huskers steady minutes all season.
Photos by Lisa Hall.

assume greater responsibility and leadership. A year ago, his main concern was providing scoring punch off the bench. He started only once. As a sophomore, however, he couldn't concentrate on scoring to the exclusion of other things, such as rebounding and, at times, handling the ball. As a starter,





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Piatkowski's role changed according to the Cornhuskers' needs.

He alternated between playing small forward and shooting guard, and the differences occasionally caused him problems. As a guard, his job was to get back on defense after missed shots, while as a forward, he was supposed to go to the boards and rebound. His instinct was to rebound, and often he was caught in between.

It was frustrating for Piatkowski. "It was a lot harder to score," he said. "It was a lot harder to do everything."

By his own admission, he didn't play to his potential this season, even though he earned All-Big Eight honorable mention. "I don't think I've come close to my potential,' said Piatkowski, who played more minutes than anyone else on the team.

Chandler also earned all-conference honorable mention, after establishing himself as arguably the best true center in the Big Eight. Prior to the season, Cornhusker Coach Danny Nee said the 6-foot-10 transfer from Alvin, Texas, Community College could be as good a center as Rich King, a first-round draft pick in the 1991 NBA draft. Such a statement had to be taken in context. Chandler and King are dramatically different types of centers. But Nee was right.

Chandler was an intimidating force in the middle, both offensively and defensively. He was Nebraska's leading rebounder and second-leading scorer. And he blocked a school-record 91 shots. Chandler was the only Cornhusker to start all 29 games. He finished third on the team in field-goal percentage. And he had a team-high 27 dunks.

One of the biggest questions going into the season was whether or not Jamar Johnson could live up to Nee's praise. A year ago, while Johnson was sitting out because of Proposition 48, Nee compared him to Indiana's Damon Bailey, who was the state of Indiana's "Mr. Basketball" as a high school senior. Johnson, who's from Concord High in Elkhart, Ind., was also a finalist for that honor in the same season.

At the time, Nee's comparison seemed unreasonable. There was no way of knowing how quickly Johnson would adjust after not playing organized basketball for an entire year. Some players have needed a full collegiate season before becoming comfortable, much less as productive.

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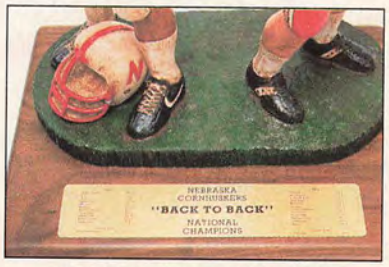
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But Johnson was able to step right in, earning second-team All-Big Eight recognition in his rookie season. With all due respect to Kansas' Rex Walters, a transfer from Northwestern University, Johnson should have been chosen the conference Newcomer of the Year.

Johnson almost certainly meant more to Nebraska than Walters meant to Kansas. By the Big Eight season, Johnson was the focus of opposing defenses. Invariably, the plan was to take Johnson out of the game.

During a news conference prior to the Southeast Regional in Cincinnati, Connecticut Coach Jim Calhoun said it was remarkable that Nebraska could have achieved its success with only one true point guard, and a first-year point guard at that.

Johnson ranked second in the Big Eight in free-throw percentage, fifth in three-point shooting percentage and sixth in assists per game.

The emergence of Johnson and Chandler was crucial to the Cornhuskers' success. So was the development of Chubick, who started the final seven games and was Academic All-Big Eight. Those four will be joined by redshirt freshman Terrance Badgett, who probably was good enough to be starting by season's end and a freshmen recruiting class that includes Andre Woolridge and Erick Strickland, the most prolific scorers in the history of Nebraska's largest high schools, and Tom Best, a transfer from Toledo.

Best, who underwent back surgery near the end of the season, led the Mid-American Conference in rebounding as a sophomore in 1990-91.

In addition, Nee expects to have at least one junior college transfer ready to play immediately. In late April, the Cornhuskers signed Amos Gregory, a 6-8, 270-pound center/forward from Aquinas (Tenn.) Junior College, to a letter of intent. And Nee was still looking to sign at least one and possibly two more.

The expectations for the 1992-93 Cornhuskers figure to be high, after back-to-back seasons in which they have surprised the experts.

Nee's program was supposed to be in transition in 1991-92. Nebraska was picked sixth in the Big Eight, which enjoyed a reputation as one of the strongest conferences in the nation. Yet the Cornhuskers finished strong,



Jamar Johnson answered early criticism and became the lead focal point of offense.

winning four of their final six regular-season games and nearly cracked the Big Eight's first division. They were fifth, with a 7-7 conference record.

Despite the 19-10 record overall and a second-consecutive appearance in the NCAA Tournament, Nee wasn't completely satisfied with his sixth Nebraska team. The Cornhuskers finished with three losses in a row and failed to win an NCAA Tournament game for the third time in their school's history.

Even though Connecticut had been ranked as high as No. 4 in the nation during the regular season, the Huskies' decisive victory was embarrassing to Nee. "I don't think we've been competitive against the Top 20 level (teams), and that's probably the biggest disappointment in the whole thing, not being competitive," Nee said afterward.

Around the horn . . .

The disappointment of a 107-85 loss against Oklahoma in the first round of the Big Eight post-season tournament at Kemper Arena in Kansas City, Mo., was eased the next day when Andre Woolridge, a recruit from Omaha Benson High School, scored 50 points in the championship game of the Nebraska School Activities Association Class A Tournament at the Devaney Sports Center.

The Cornhuskers got back to Lincoln from Kansas City in time to watch Woolridge set a Class A Tournament single-game record. Nee was obviously pleased as he waited to congratulate Woolridge after the game, in which he hit 17-of-34 field goals, including 4-of-8 from three-point range, and 12-of-15 free throws. The 6-2 guard also grabbed a game-high 10 rebounds.

"Magnificent," Nee said. "I was really impressed. I thought he was great. He does it so naturally. He's a tremendous athlete."

Woolridge needed at least 47 points to break the Nebraska Class A High School career scoring record, established in 1991-92 by Bellevue West's Erick Strickland, another Cornhusker recruit.

Over the last two seasons, Nebraska has a 45-18 record (.714), the best two-year run in school history.

Nebraska led the Big Eight in blocked shots (169), rebound average per game (45.0) and rebound margin (plus 6.4) this season.

Johnson was the first sophomore to lead the Cornhuskers in minutes played per game since the late Jack Moore in 1979-80.

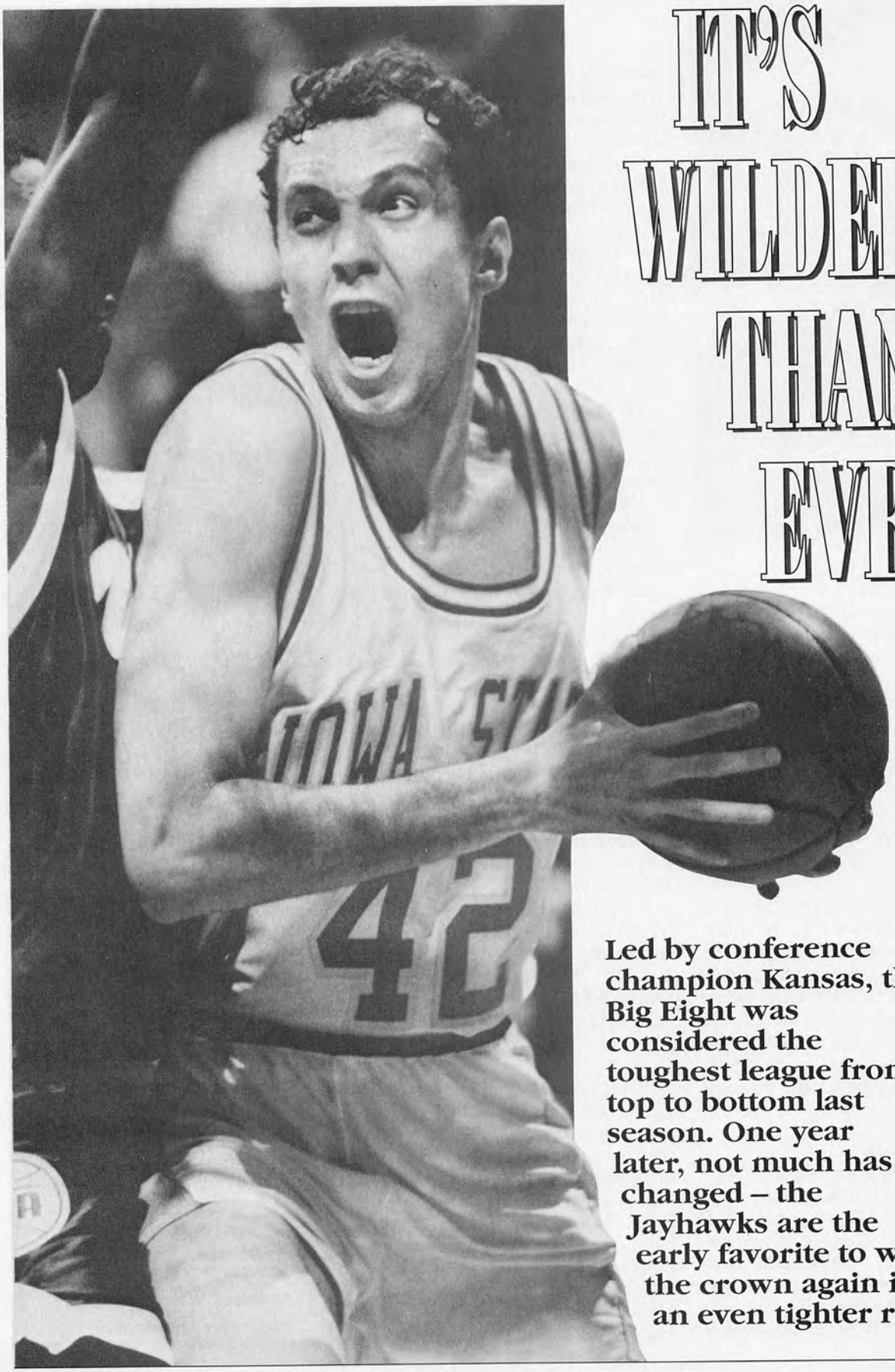
Nebraska is earning national respect, as evidenced by the Associated Press Top 25 poll during the 1991-92 season. Although the Cornhuskers appeared in the Top 25 only once — at No. 25 the week of Feb. 24 — they received votes every week.

The Cornhuskers established single-season school records for three-point shots made (183), three-point shots attempted (489) and three-point shot percentage (.374). In their 106-97 loss against Oklahoma in Norman, Okla., in the final regular-season game, they broke the school single-game record for three-point shots made (14) and attempted (36). Nee is holding true to his promise of an up-tempo offense. ■



Big Eight Basketball . . .

By Al Eschbach



IT'S WILDER THAN EVER!

Led by conference champion Kansas, the Big Eight was considered the toughest league from top to bottom last season. One year later, not much has changed – the Jayhawks are the early favorite to win the crown again in an even tighter race.

The decade of the 1980s was very kind to Big Eight Conference basketball.

The likes of Wayman Tisdale and Danny Manning put the conference on the map and strong showings by the conference in NCAA tournaments did nothing to weaken that respect.

But it wasn't until last year that the rest of the country picked up on the tough play of the conference.

Indiana Coach Bobby Knight decided he didn't want his team playing late games on Monday night. The Big Ten had been the second game in a triple-header on ESPN following a Big East contest. The Big Ten bowed to the wishes of Knight. All of a sudden there was an opening.

Hoop fans were bored by the slow play of the Big East, so the excitement the Big Eight offered was a needed shot in the arm. Needless to say, the nation was impressed.

"I think the ESPN exposure helped the Big Eight tremendously," said one of the networks' main announcers, Larry Conley. "It was a great time slot. There's some magic about Monday nights. I think a lot of fans get accustomed to watching a sporting event then because of "Monday Night Football."

"And another thing that helped was ESPN promoted the Big Monday doubleheader all weekend. It's hard to buy that kind of advertisement. When the Big Ten pulled out on Monday night, it was a God-send to the Big Eight."

One of the announcers who made his way to the various arenas in the Big Eight was hoops guru Dick Vitale.

"Without a doubt, the Big Eight was the No. 1 conference in the country this year," Vitale said. "From top to bottom it was the best.

"This is a conference with tremendous coaches and talent. Their brand of basketball is played at an exciting fever. I know the Big Eight teams didn't do too well in the NCAA Tournament, but I still think it was the best."

The Big Eight had six teams in the NCAA Tournament this year — Kansas, Oklahoma State, Oklahoma, Missouri, Nebraska and Iowa State. Add to that the fact that Kansas, OSU and OU were all seeded in the Sweet 16 of the tournament, and no other conference can say much.

While most basketball experts have agreed the Big Eight was the best last season, you have to wonder what they will think when December rolls around and the 1992-93 campaign gets underway.



Backcourt star Rex Walters (23, left) can lead Kansas to another title while claiming Big Eight Player of the Year honors. Possessing guard abilities in a 6-foot-9 frame, foreign import Julius Michalik (opposite page) is a force for the Cyclones.

The Big Eight should be even stronger.

Other than Oklahoma State, the other seven teams in the league have veteran casts returning. Clubs like Oklahoma and Missouri lose key performers, but they also have quality veterans back.

Kansas appears to be the early favorite to win the conference. In fact, Vitale thinks the Jayhawks have a shot to go a long way in 1993.

"When I look at all of the teams for the upcoming season, I have to rank Kansas No. 1 in the country," Vitale said. "They are flat-out loaded. Roy Williams has a team with great talent.

"Kansas is a team that has size, depth and some great athletes. They also had a tremendous recruiting class. I know everyone was disappointed in Lawrence when they got beat by UTEP in the NCAA Tournament, but those bad memories will fade quickly when all of their PTP's (prime time players) get on the court again during the next few months."

Let's take an early peek at the Big Eight Conference race for 1992-93 with these predictions.



The only loss suffered by the defending league champs is forward Alonzo Jamison. Everyone else returns which means bad news for conference foes.

Leading the way is the All-Big Eight backcourt of Rex Walters and Adonis Jordan. Walters was the conference's Newcomer of the Year, averaging 16 points a game. Jordan is a slick point guard who averaged 12.8 points.

KU is big and skillful up front. Leading the way are 6-foot-10 Eric Pauley, sophomore Greg Ostertag (7-1) and Ben Davis (6-8). All played well last year as newcomers.

Also returning are 6-4 Steve Woodberry and 6-8 Patrick Richey. And let's not forget point guard Calvin Rayford, who will be eligible. This 5-8 dynamo was one of the top prep players in the land two years ago. He sat out last year because of Proposition 48.

Of course, the rich get richer. The Jayhawks signed one of the top five junior college players in the country in 6-6 Darrin Hancock and 6-7 Chris Davis. He was one of the top high school players in the land. Kansas will definitely be tough.

#2 OU

The Sooners were the hottest team in the league during the second half of the season capturing six of their final league games to finish in a tie for second place. They have to replace 6-8 Damon Patterson, who averaged 20.6 points a game and guard Brent Price, who averaged 18.7, but the nucleus returning is a good one.

Up front OU is in good shape with the league's top rebounder Bryan Sallier returning. He averaged 13.9 points and 9.1 rebounds. Forward Jeff Webster (6-8) also returns for his junior year. He already has over 1,000 points in his collegiate career.

The biggest mystery the Sooners have is at the small forward slot.

One of those in the hunt to replace Patterson is 6-8 Ken Conley, a product of Coffeyville Junior College. Conley is regarded as one of the top juco players in the country. Also getting looks will be 6-4 Shon Alexander. Two years ago he was regarded as the top prep player in Oklahoma. He redshirted last year and big things are expected from him offensively.

The Sooners are strong at guard. Tubbs thinks senior Terry Evans could be one of the top point guards in the country. Angelo Hamilton could excel after coming in and playing during the second semester. He's an exciting athlete.

Another name you will hear quite often is redshirt freshman Dion Barnes, who excelled during practice sessions. If the Sooners can find a small forward, they'll be in the thick of things

#3 NU

The Huskers wound up in fifth place in the conference with a 7-7 league mark and 19-10 overall. Danny Nee's club will be better with four starters returning. The biggest losses are forwards Carl Hayes and Dapreis Owens.

Put together some talented returning veterans with the best crop of high school players coming into the league and you have something very special.

Leading the returnees are 6-6 guard/forward Eric Piatkowski and 6-10 center Derrick Chandler. They'll both vie for all-league honors. Piatkowski is an outstanding perimeter shooter who averaged 14.3 points a game. Chandler was the team's second leading scorer with a 12.3 mark. He led the Huskers in rebounding with an 8.2 reading. He also set a school record for blocked shots with 91.

The glue to the team is point guard Jamar Johnson. He showed a lot of improvement after sitting out a year because of Proposition 48. All he did was lead the Huskers in minutes per game (30.7), three-point percentage (.411), free throw percentage (.841), assists (130) and steals (36). Junior Bruce Chubick started the last seven games of the season at forward.

Much of the excitement in Lincoln will be watching the arrival of three highly-touted freshmen — 6-0 Andre Woolridge of Omaha, 6-3 Eric Strickland of Bellevue, Neb., and 6-5 Jaron Boone from Salt Lake City, Utah. They will give the Huskers some much needed depth at guard.

#4 ISU

Big things are expected from the Cyclones, and for good reason. They have all five starters back from a club which made the NCAA Tournament and finished 21-13. Johnny Orr had some terrific young talent and they should be much better this time around.

One thing the Cyclones will need is more consistency from the backcourt duo of 6-2 Justus Thigpen and 6-2 Ron Bayless. They were up and down late in the year and that was one of the reasons why the Cyclones were on the NCAA bubble. Thigpen was fifth in the league in scoring with a 16.5 average. He can dominate when he is on top of his game. Bayless led the conference in free throw percentage (.860).

What is causing excitement in Ames is the improvement of three very talented freshmen from last season — 6-9 Julius Michalik, 6-4 Fred Hoiberg and 6-11 Loren Meyer. They were forces their first season in the conference.

Michalik, an import from Czechoslovakia, plays inside but has the skills of a guard. He is extremely quick. He averaged 12.6 points a game. Hoiberg, a slick offensive performer who averaged 12.3 points, showed a lot of poise for a freshman.

Meyer is the center of the future. He has a very nice touch for a big man. Help is on the way in the backcourt with the signature of 6-3 junior college standout Fred Brown.

#5 OSU

No one in the conference has a more difficult rebuilding task ahead than the Cowboys. The mainstays of two of OSU's best teams in decades are gone. Byron Houston, the school's best player ever, and slick guards Sean Sutton, Corey Williams and Darwyn Alexander have all used up their eligibility. It will be tough replacing players of this caliber.

But don't feel too sorry for Eddie Sutton. The Pokes had a nice group of athletes they were redshirting last year and a big-time junior college recruit to help ease the pain.

Two players returning who will bolster the front line are 6-9 Randy Davis and 7-0 sophomore Bryant Reeves. The loss of Houston inside will be the biggest adjustment for the Pokes.

Help is on the way with three players who sat out last year. The starting



OU has a talented stable of athletes returning including guard Terry Evans (3) and all-conference center candidate Bryan Sallier (40).

guards should be Brookes Thompson, who was the leading scorer at Texas A&M two years ago and Randy Rutherford, an excellent guard who transferred to OSU in December from Bacone (Okla.) Junior College. Von Bennett, a transfer from UTEP, should be a big help if the Cowboys decide to utilize the three-guard offense they made work last season.

But just how quickly the Pokes rise may depend on how fast 6-7 Fred Burley fits into the program. Burley was one of the best junior college players in the country a year ago. He should start at the small forward slot.

#6 MIZ

Here's a team that could finish a lot higher. The Tigers suffered a huge loss with the departure of one of the schools' best players, Anthony Peeler. There were times last year when he was a one-man show leading the league in scoring with a 23.4 reading. Another guy who will be missed is 6-6 forward Jamal Coleman.

The nucleus is very good, however. Leading the way will be 6-8 forward Jevon Crudup (15.3 pts.) and 6-1 point guard Melvin Booker. Both are excellent players. Crudup might be the best power forward in the league. Also back is 6-8 forward Jeff Warren. He's a tough inside player. Coming off a medical redshirt year is 6-10 Chris Heller. He's a good athlete who must get tougher inside.

The problem the Tigers may have is depth. They are trying to survive their recent NCAA probation; they were hit hard in the scholarship department. This is a team that has enough front-line talent to finish as high as second place.

#1 KSU

Dana Altman is on the hot seat these days in Manhattan. The fans eased up a little late in the year when the Wildcats started to play better. Still, the talent isn't at the level of some of the other conference schools.

K-State will miss the inside play of Wylie Howard, but it has some pretty good talent in the likes of Askia Jones, guard Gaylon Nickerson and up-and-coming standout Brian Henson. The 'Cats don't have an inside game. Foes can move inside and have a lot of success.

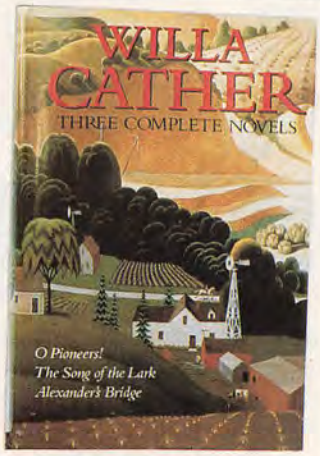
You figure Kansas State will be better than the team which finished with a 16-14 record a year ago. They may be better, but perhaps not good enough to climb out of the seventh place position they were in a year ago.

#8 COLO

The Buffaloes finished last in the Big Eight with a 4-10 conference mark and a 13-15 record overall. They are a team with some good, young talent. The biggest loss was quick point guard Billy Law. He did a good job of running the show the last two years.

The Buffs have one of the top young players in the league in guard Donnie Boyce. This sharp-shooting sophomore averaged 14.9 points raising quite a few eyebrows in the process.

Back is leading rebounder Pancho Hodges. He finished 10th in the league by grabbing 6.1 caroms per outing. He was second in the Big Eight in blocked shots with 73. The Buffs have nice players, the problem is they simply don't have enough to go against the big boys.



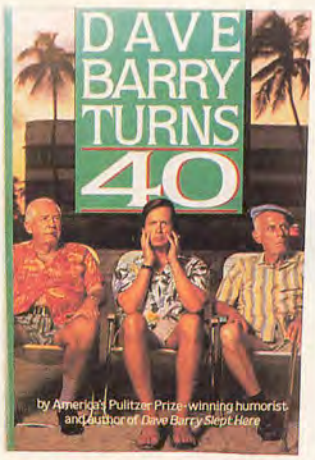
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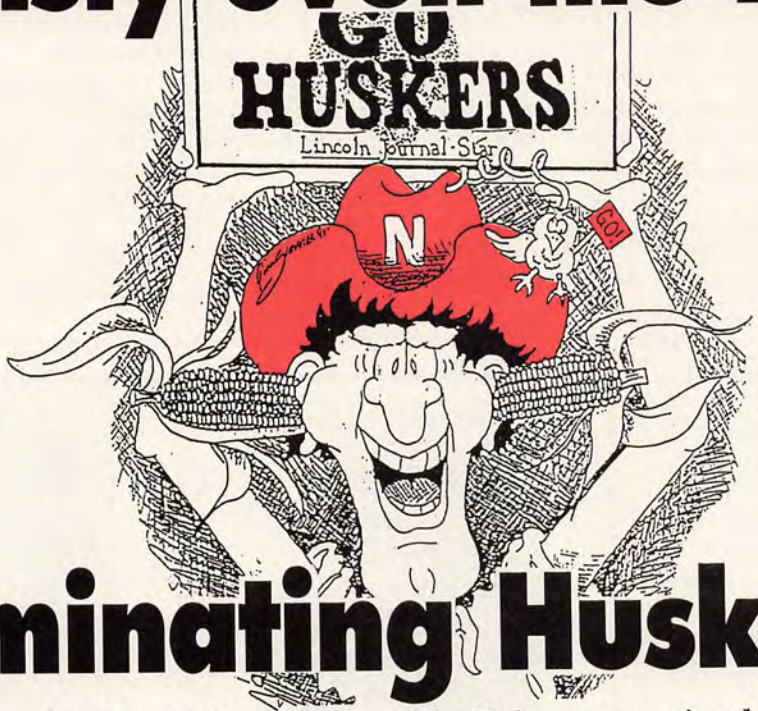
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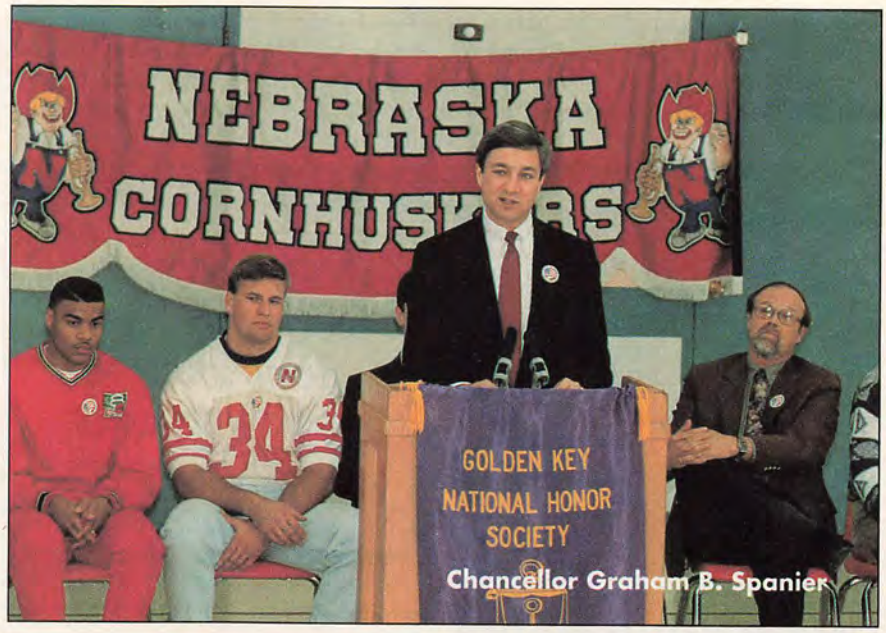
Lincoln Journal-Star

Husker Athletes Aid Best of America

by Keith Zimmer

Avid Husker fans are both proud and knowledgeable of the athletic accomplishments of basketball standouts Jamar Johnson, Karen Jennings and football player Trev Alberts.

Perhaps an even greater source of pride and unfortunately one of the best kept secrets in Nebraska are the community and volunteer efforts of Husker scholar-athletes. Johnson, Jennings, Alberts and 20 additional Nebraska student-athletes teamed up with the Golden Key National Honor Society for the Best of America national outreach campaign this past April. In one week, mixed panels of athletes and honor society students spoke to 10 Lincoln and area elementary schools with the mission of helping youth realize their full potential.



Chancellor Graham B. Spanier

The kick-off date for the Best of America program was April 6 and featured a live Nebraska Educational Television Network (NETV) statewide satellite broadcast from Calvert Elementary in Lincoln. According to University of Nebraska-Lincoln Golden Key Chairperson and coordinator of the event Debbie Dedrick, "Best of America has been so well received that we were unable to meet all the requests for school presentations. The NETV satellite presentation allowed surrounding communities to watch the program live and be exposed to a valuable educational program." The national Golden Key offices in Atlanta, Ga., provided the funding for the broadcast.

To help today's youth discover their talents and reach their full potential is no small task. According to Tina Cannon, Assistant National Program Director for Golden Key, although Best of America reaches K-12 students, elementary students are the focus. "They are still impressionable and forming opinions and soon will be faced with difficult decisions and transitions. They need people who have successfully dealt with similar situations," concluded Cannon.



Golden Key Chairperson Debbie Dedrick & Husker split end Corey Dixon sing "Knowlege is Power!"

The cooperative effort between Husker athletes and Golden Key sends many positive messages, according to Dedrick.

"First of all, it promotes teamwork and secondly, it gives the young people a variety of people to look up to. You don't have to be the star athlete or star student to be viewed as a role model."

In fact, according to Dr. Roger Grooters, director of athletic/academic programs at Nebraska, "We select student speakers who have a good message to share and who are demonstrating promise in all phases of their life."

One such speaker at the Calvert pre-

sentation was second team All-Big Eight basketball player Jamar Johnson. "I talked about overcoming adversity and always reaching a little bit higher."

GTE Academic All-American and Big Eight Conference Women's Basketball Player of the Year, Karen Jennings, stressed the value of goal setting. "I rely heavily on goal setting and today I'm in a position to accomplish two of my major ambitions." Jennings, a near perfect 4.0 exercise science student is positioning herself for medical school with aspirations of becoming a doctor. She is also in a position to make the 1992 U.S.A. Women's Basketball Team. Jennings is one of 56 players who will compete for a roster spot on the USA team to compete in Barcelona.



Olympic hopeful Karen Jennings talked about goal-setting.

Husker student-athletes contribute to reaching over 40,000 youth annually.

Academic All-Big Eight in football and freshman Newcomer of the Year in 1991, Trev Alberts challenged the elementary students to never be satisfied. "All of you should be proud of your honors and accomplishments, but you can always work harder and do even better," stressed Alberts.

Golden Key member Shelly Behrns talked about a positive belief in yourself, and the president of Golden Key, John Keogh, told the audience that school is a place to receive a gift a day. "In school, you receive the gift of knowledge and lifetime skills," said Keogh.

Although serious messages were shared with students, Best of America also featured entertainment inclusive of educational themes. Cornhusker split end Corey Dixon and Golden Key Chairperson Debbie Dedrick conducted a sing-a-long with the Calvert students, titled "Knowledge is Power," and Herbie Husker and the UNL Yell Squad performed several "Stay in School" cheers.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor Graham B. Spanier attended and participated in the Calvert presentation. "These are the Best of America, so listen carefully to what

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Jamar Johnson challenged the youth to reach a little bit higher!



Trev Alberts shows his Orange Bowl watch to Calvert students.

each has to say."

Another special aspect of Nebraska's Best of America program includes the involvement of the Special Education Department. Special education students and staff help coordinate the program and serve as hosts for the events. Regular education students are invited to the program and ultimately gain greater respect for the efforts and abilities of special education students.

The Best of America program is just one of numerous national outreach campaigns Husker student-athletes contribute to reaching over 40,000 youth annually.

Although the headlines tend to be dominated by negative athletic related stories or exclusive athletic stories, one headline should read loud and clear: Knowledge is Power! ■

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by Mark Owens

All-Sports HUSKER Roundup

Seeking its eighth national championship, the Nebraska men's gymnastics team put on a record-breaking performance but came up short in the national meet in April at the Bob Devaney Sports Center in Lincoln.

The Cornhuskers scored an NCAA championship meet record of 288.95 points but were overshadowed by No. 2 Stanford. Lynch led Stanford to score a record 289.55 points and won the first gymnastics national crown in the school's history.

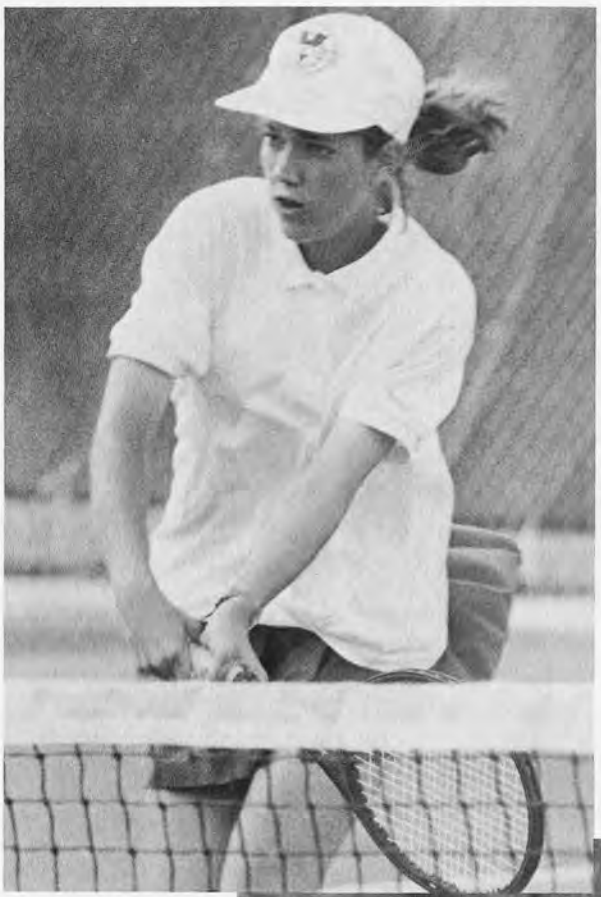
The top-ranked Huskers continued their NCAA streak of consecutive team performances above the 280-point mark, a run that started last January with a 284 in the Big Eight Triangular in Norman, Okla. Third-ranked Ohio State brought up the rear in the three-team finals with a score of 286.25 points. Nebraska smashed the old NCAA championship record of 288.025 set during the 1991 meet by the Uni-versity of Ok-lahoma The Huskers under Head Coach Francis Allen had held the previous NCAA record, setting the standard at 288.15 in the 1988 team title clash.

Left: Sumner Darling finished second in the parallel bars during the national meet in April.

Right: Dennis Harrison gave another outstanding performance, posting a career-high 58.5 in the all-around.

Stanford needed all the help it could get from Lynch, a junior, to offset another outstanding performance by Nebraska's sophomore sensation, Dennis Harrison. Harrison posted a career-high 58.5 in the all-around, good for fifth place and All-American recognition in the individual competition. Harrison's score was just .05 off the school record of 58.55, set in 1981 by Jim Hartung. Lynch had three scores of 9.9 or better and had turned in a topnotch 58.5 all-around score in the qualifying competition. He followed up with a career-best 59.025 in team finals the next day.

Harrison, who is from Omaha, placed fifth with a score of 9.725 in the high bar competition. He was bettered in that event by teammate Rick Kieffer, who was second with a 9.825, also good for All-American honors. Che Bowers was sixth in the high bar with a score of 9.675.



Left: No. 3 singles player Ann Flannery helped secure a fifth place finish for the Lady Cornhuskers in the Big Eight Conference championships.

Below: In the Big Eight Women's Golf Tournament, Ann Guiberson finished just 13 strokes behind individual champion Arantxa Sison of OSU.



However, Bowers went far beyond All-American status when he won the pommel horse to become the first Nebraska National Champion in that event. Bowers took the title with a school-record score of 9.9.

In the parallel bars, Sumner Darling was second with a mark of 9.85 and Josh Sagert finished fourth with a score of 9.8.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

The Lady Cornhuskers tennis team placed fifth in the Big Eight Conference championships in April at Leanwood, Kan., by defeating Oklahoma University 5-4. Nebraska's clash started slowly as No. 1 singles player Nicole Kenneally of OU opened with a 6-4, 6-1 victory over Zarina Galvan. At the No. 2 spot, the Lady Huskers were behind 2-0 in team points when Lady Sooner Trish Silverman stopped Frauke Hachtmann, 6-3, 6-2.

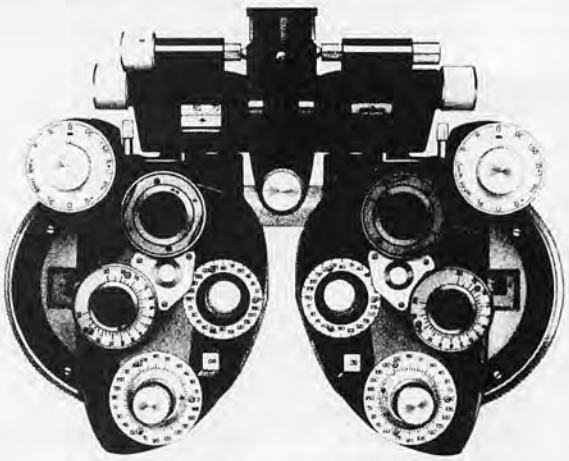
But, No. 3 singles players Ann Flannery prevented the Nebraska skid with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Oklahoma's Brandi Swan. No. 4 player Rachel Collins then defeated Tiffany George, 6-3, 6-1 to help propel Nebraska on its way to a fourth match winning streak.

No. 5 singles Heidi Junius stopped Peta Twidale, 6-3, 6-1 and No. 5 player Tina Courtretsis defeated Vanessa Fox, 6-3, 6-1, to give the Cornhuskers a 4-2 lead going into doubles competition.

The No. 1 doubles team of Collins and Flannery lost a close 6-4, 6-4 match to the Sooners, but the No. 2 combination of Silverman and Swan provided the deciding points with a 6-3, 6-4 sweep of the Sooners. At No. 3 doubles, Hachtmann and Courtretsis dropped a tough 6-3, 7-5 match to close out the action.

WOMEN'S GOLF

Ann Guiberson paced the Lady Cornhuskers with her fifth-place finish in the Big Eight Women's Golf Tournament at Manhattan Country Club. Guiberson shot a 80-75-78-233 on the par 72 course, just 13 strokes behind individual champion Arantxa Sison of Oklahoma State. Despite Guiberson's effort, OSU won its seventh title in nine years. The Lady Cowgirls topped



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the league field with a total score of 914, followed by Oklahoma (935), Kansas (951), Missouri (960), Kansas State (962), Iowa State (971) and the Cornhuskers.

MEN'S GOLF

The Cornhuskers got a stellar performance from Craig Poet, who finished ninth in the Big Eight Conference championships in mid-April at Prairie Dunes Country Club in Hutchinson, Kan.



Playing a tough course in 50 degree temperatures, Craig Poet finished ninth in the Big Eight championships held in Hutchinson, Kan.

Poet led the Huskers with a 72-74-74-220, 10-over-par score over a tough course, made even more difficult because of 50 degree temperatures and gusty winds. Poet was followed by Chad Dubisar (75-78-78-231) and Brad Dubisar (81-72-78-231), who tied for 23rd with 21-over-par totals. Jeff Rafferty placed No. 36 with a 242 (77-80-85).

In team competition, Nebraska struggled in the chilly weather and slumped to a 315 in the final round for a 54-hole total of 922, good for seventh place. The Cornhuskers entered the final round in sixth place and within easy striking distance of fifth place, only two shots out. Oklahoma won its first conference team title in 35 years by edging traditional leader Oklahoma State by two strokes. Iowa State was a distant third, while Kansas was fourth with a 907 total and Colorado held on to fifth with a final round 310 for a three-day total of 915. Kansas State took sixth, just three shots ahead of the Cornhuskers, and Missouri rounded out the field with a 938. ■

Continued from page 76

and his staff had picked out Michigan as the one opponent it had to beat. A victory was essential to the program's long-term success.

As Dwain Carlson, a senior lineman on the 1962 team, would say years later: "It (the Michigan game) was the beginning of the beginning."

Michigan had tradition and played in the Big Ten, more prominent in football quality and national media exposure than the Big Eight of 1962. But the Wolverines had been hit hard by graduation, and Devaney knew it.

Bill Thornton, a senior from Toledo, Ohio, provided the inspiration for Nebraska's 25-13 victory against Michigan, before a modest-sized crowd of 70,287 in Michigan Stadium, which holds more than 100,000.

Most fans would argue that the most significant victory during the Devaney Era came in Norman, Okla., on Thanksgiving Day of 1971, when the Cornhuskers defeated Oklahoma 35-31 in what is still referred to, fondly by Nebraskans, as the "Game of the Century." There is certainly justification for that.

But the Michigan victory in 1962 was equally special to Devaney.

Devaney's first Nebraska team won six games before tasting defeat, at home against Missouri. The Cornhuskers would lose only once more that season.

After finishing with an 8-2 regular-season record, Nebraska was invited to play in the short-lived Gotham Bowl in New York City. On the frozen turf of Yankee Stadium, before an audience generously estimated at 11,000 (6,166 paid) the Cornhuskers defeated Miami 36-34.

Nebraska had played in only two post-season bowl games prior to that afternoon in December of 1962. The Cornhuskers have played in a bowl game in all but two seasons since.

During Devaney's 11-season tenure as Nebraska's head coach, the Cornhuskers compiled a record of 101-20-2. They won eight Big Eight championships and two mythical championships, in 1970 and 1971. During a span from 1969 to 1972, following back-to-back 6-4 seasons that fostered discontent among some fans, Devaney's teams went 32 games with-



Devaney's fiery approach to the game resulted in mass respect and a 101-20-2 record which included two national championships and eight Big Eight titles.



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Nov. 14	• Iowa State
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Devaney's teams played in nine bowl games, winning six, including the last four. The last three were in the Orange Bowl. With the exception of the "Game of the Century," those three Orange Bowl victories were probably the most noted during the Devaney Era because two preceded the national championships and the other was against Notre Dame, by a decisive 40-6, in Devaney's final game as coach.

It was a fitting conclusion to his coaching career. Devaney, who was inducted into the National College Football Hall of Fame in 1981, never coached a team with a losing record, including his 14 seasons at the high school level in Michigan.

After the 1973 Orange Bowl game, Devaney left the field to concentrate on his responsibilities as athletic director. He became athletic director in 1967, replacing the man who hired him, Tippy Dye.

Under Devaney's leadership, Nebraska's athletic programs for women, as well as men, have flourished. Memorial Stadium has been enlarged. Artificial turf has been installed, and the South Stadium office building has been added. When Devaney came to Lincoln, the area beyond the south end zone was a reduced price knothole section.

The expansion of facilities under Devaney has paralleled the success of the programs for which he has hired coaches. The Cook Pavilion indoor practice facility has been built, as have the Hewitt Center, Buck Beltzer Stadium, the Otto and Gladys Baumann Baseball Complex, the Ed Weir track and field stadium and the women's softball complex. The NU Coliseum is being renovated as the new home of Nebraska's nationally prominent volleyball program.

Through Devaney's efforts, an athletic complex was built on the State Fair Grounds in 1976. Two years later, the Nebraska Board of Regents named the complex the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The Sports Center stands as a fitting testament to what Devaney has accomplished over the past 30 years.

He might have come to town as the mysterious "Mr. Roberts." But his name is now synonymous with Cornhusker athletics. Devaney's name is probably as familiar to most Nebraskans as any in state history. ■

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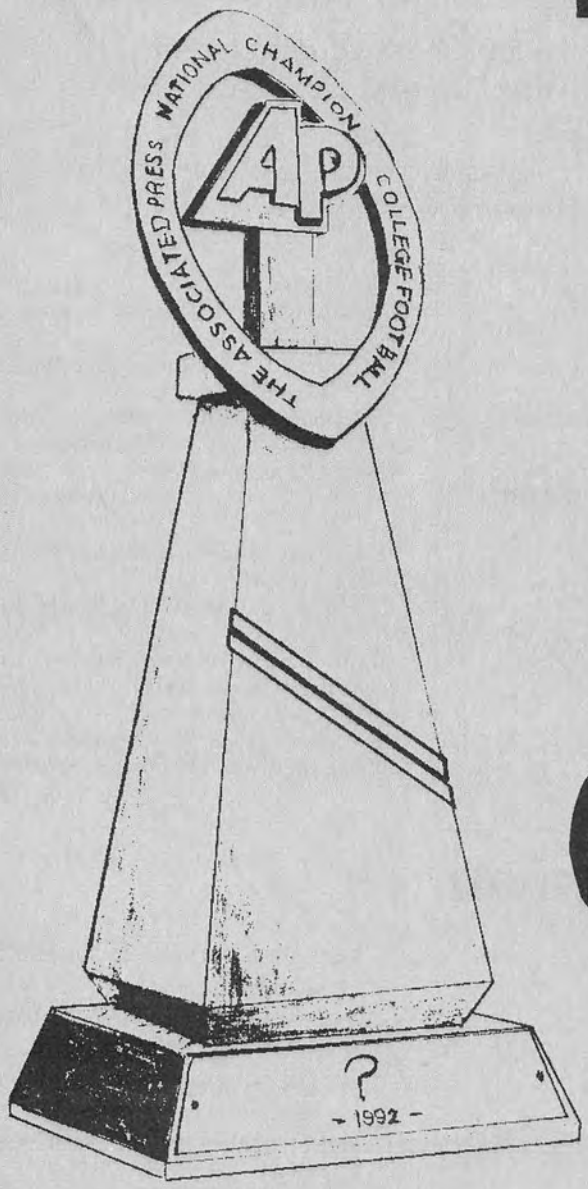
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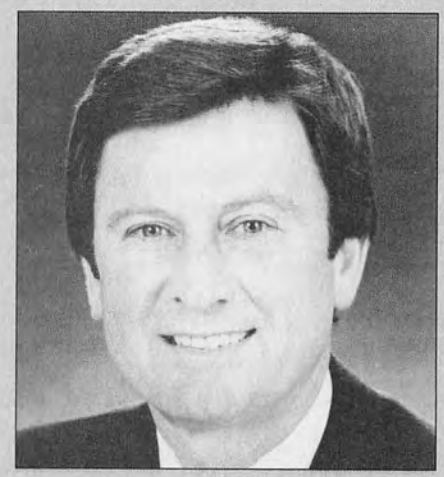


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STEVE SPURRIER

FLORIDA STATE



BOBBY BOWDEN

The state of Florida once again dominates the top of the preseason charts, but the early favorite to win it all is Miami. A tough schedule could slow the defending co-National Champions, but the 'Canes are equipped to become the first team since Alabama in 1978 and 1979 to win national titles . . .



We went out on a limb last year. We took some shots when we tabbed Penn State as our preseason favorite for the national football championship.

And, for the longest time, it looked like a bone-head move. Some of our friends chuckled and told us about it.

But alas, it didn't turn out so far off base. Those Nittany Lions were not so bad after all. They played Miami within six points. Only Florida State (17-16) did better.

Penn State, 11-2, climbed all the way to No. 3 in the national polls. And, in case you forgot, Michigan, our preseason No. 2, finished just that in the Associated Press poll.

Florida State, our No. 4, well, the Seminoles were No. 4 in The Associated Press' Jan. 2 finale.

For the record, 15 teams in our top 20 finished in AP's top 20. We even landed a direct hit on our surprise pick for last season. We put California in at No. 18. We were right, just not brave enough. The Golden Bears climbed all the way to No. 8.

Anyway, enough about last year and on to 1992. We've had enough of surprises. We are not walking out on any limbs this time.

If you haven't skipped forward in great anticipation, you'll see we went with Miami. However, there are concerns with that pick.

It isn't so much that Miami isn't good enough. The Hurricanes remain equipped to hurt people.

It's just that there are others capable of running the table, too.

Notre Dame, Washington and Florida State (sound familiar) continue to stack up the nation's best recruiting classes year after year.

If there is a darkhorse, it might be Alabama. The Crimson Tide has a nice schedule, a prerequisite for winning a national title. But it might be hard for any Southeastern Conference team to win a national title.

Why? The SEC is always strong and it just became tougher since that league went to a divisional alignment which includes a one-game play-off to determine the host berth in the Sugar Bowl. That amounts to two bowl games for the SEC.

PRE SEASON TOP 20

1. MIAMI
2. NOTRE DAME
3. WASHINGTON
4. FLORIDA
5. FLORIDA STATE
6. TEXAS A&M
7. PENN STATE
8. MICHIGAN
9. NEBRASKA
10. GEORGIA
11. COLORADO
12. OKLAHOMA
13. ALABAMA
14. SYRACUSE
15. IOWA
16. CLEMSON
17. STANFORD
18. BAYLOR
19. USC
20. MISSISSIPPI ST.

1 MIAMI

You've heard about Gino Torretta, Lamar Thomas, Horace Copeland, Kevin Williams, Stephen McGuire, Rusty Medearis, Mark Caesar, Darrin Smith, Micheal Barrow and Jessie Armstead.

However, the scary part about the Hurricanes is they have as many players that you've never heard about that would star in any other program.

Coach Dennis Erickson has won two national titles in his first three seasons. The only other coach to accomplish that feat is Oklahoma's Barry Switzer.

There are question marks in the offensive line and place-kicker Carlos Huerta must be replaced. But quarterback Torretta and receivers Thomas, Williams and Copeland should provide plenty of fireworks.

Torretta passed for 3,095 yards, more than any of his predecessors in their first season. He completed 205-of-371 passes for 20 touchdowns.

Running back McGuire sat out the spring with a knee injury, but backup Larry Jones (Orange Bowl MVP) may be better anyway.

Defense should continue to be Miami's strength. The linebackers (Smith, Barrow and Armstead) are the nation's best and fastest trio. Medearis and Caesar are tremendous pass rushers.

The speed of the defense continues to be awesome. The Hurricanes led the nation in scoring defense and should repeat.

The schedule is a bit tougher. Miami opens at Iowa Sept. 5 (ABC-TV) and also has trips to Penn State (Oct. 10) and Syracuse (Nov. 21).

Tough schedule or not, no one is better than Miami. The Hurricanes continue to bring in more talent and Erickson is a brilliant coach.



Gino Torretta will provide the leadership to point the Hurricanes in the right direction in his second year.

2 NOTRE DAME

On the surface, a 10-3 season might not live up to Notre Dame's lofty standards. But it wasn't all bad. The losses were to three teams (Michigan, Tennessee and Penn State) which finished in the Associated Press final regular-season top 10.

Plus, the Irish distinguished themselves in a 39-28 come-from-behind rally over Florida in the Sugar Bowl. That surely gave Coach Lou Holtz hope for 1992.

Notre Dame lost some talented players, but 42 lettermen return. And, as everyone knows, Notre Dame's worst recruiting classes are better than everyone else's best hauls.

"I like the enthusiasm and work habits of this team," Holtz said. "We've got some people who know what it's like to win, who have been down that road before.

"We've got people who thought they won it in 1989, and people who thought it wasn't a clip on the run back by Rocket (Ismail) in 1990 (in the Orange Bowl vs. top-ranked Colorado)."

Notre Dame returns 16 starters overall, 10 on defense. Actually, of 23 players who started on defense at one time or another last season, 19 are back.

There are more losses on offense, but in each case there is a logical replacement on hand. Quarterback Rick Mirer, who toyed with the idea of turning pro, returns for his third season at the helm. Junior fullback Jerome Bettis (Sugar Bowl MVP) is also back.

Inside linebacker Demetrius DuBose heads a defense that will see more changes in the coaching staff than on the field. Rick Minter, formerly assistant head coach at Ball State, was hired in the off season as new defensive coordinator.

The defense has been a sore spot with Holtz. Last year's youthful, injury-plagued unit permitted 21.8 points and 382.3 yards per game.

"Defense is the key for us this year," Holtz said. "I expect our secondary to be a lot stronger. Our inside linebackers are very talented."

The schedule, as usual, is murderous. The Irish face Penn State, Michigan, Brigham Young, Stanford, Pitt and Southern Cal.

"We have a chance," Holtz said. "It's not like we're devoid of talent. But by the same token, the people we play give scholarships, too. It's not a situation where we're far more talented than the people on our schedule."

3 WASHINGTON

The Huskies look for a "three-peat" as Pacific-

10 Champions. They will be favored, but it is an awesome challenge with the loss of three key starters on each side of the line.

"When you take the guys who play on the line of scrimmage away," said Coach Don James, "well, that's a lot of guys who play in traffic."

However, Washington is still, well, Washington. The Huskies have two quarterbacks returning who have earned MVP honors in the Rose Bowl. Billy Joe Hobert did it last year, Mark Brunell two years ago.

"I have never gone into a spring with two quarterbacks who have accomplished what these two have," James said. "My thinking is that regardless of who wins the start, both will have to play and will have the opportunity to play. We may go with the player with the hotter hand in a particular game."

But the quarterbacks can't do everything. The Huskies lost 12 starters from the team which went 12-0 and enter 1992 with a 14-game winning streak.

"This team doesn't have near the balance of strength and experience. We may have strong guys and fast guys, but we're not going to be nearly as experienced."



FLORIDA

Until the late collapse against Notre Dame in the Sugar Bowl, some might have speculated the Gators would be the preseason favorite (ahead of Miami) for the 1992 national championship. Perhaps they still deserve that position.

Quarterback Shane Matthews ranks with Torretta as the early favorite for the Heisman Trophy. Matthews, two-time SEC Player of the Year, completed 218-of-361 passes (60.4 percent) for 3,130 yards and an SEC record 28 touchdowns last season.

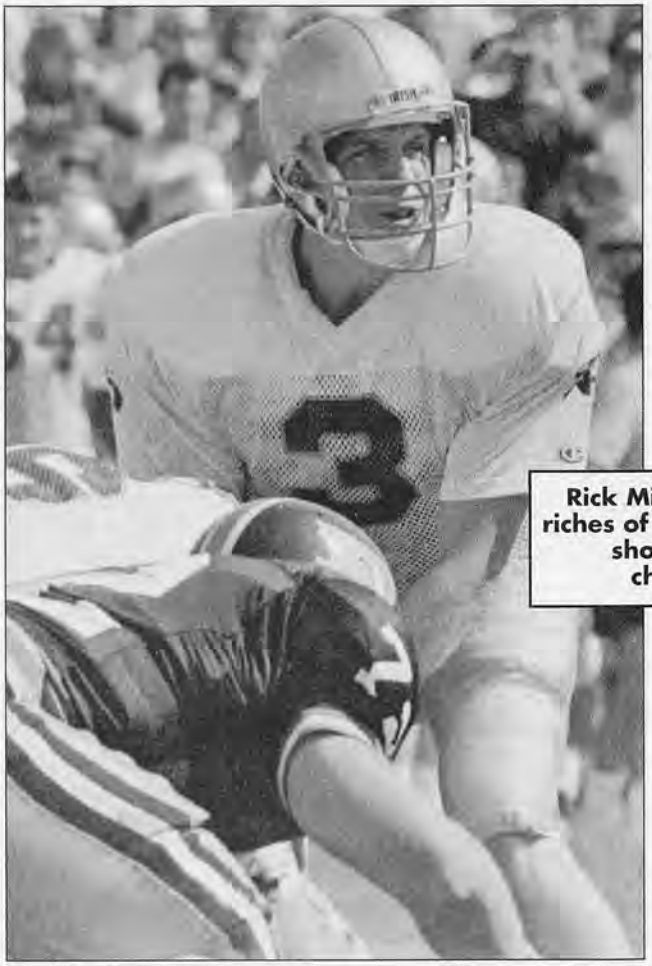
Wide receiver Willie Jackson (10 TDs) and running back Errict Rhett (1,109 yards, 10 TDs) led the league at their positions, too.

However, only one other offensive starter returns (guard Jim Watson) to help Matthews. If there is a positive, Coach Steve Spurrier always seems to find a way to generate points. He did it at Duke and he's been blessed with more than enough talent so far at Florida.

There is bad news on defense. Defensive end Harvey Thomas, one of the SEC's top big-play specialists, is doubtful after sustaining a broken leg in December. A rod, inserted just after the the accident, was removed in April during a five-hour operation.

The Gators will benefit from two steller recruiting classes since Spurrier's arrival. Florida's total number of scholarshipped football players will creep over 90 in the fall, the highest it's been since 1984, ahead of NCAA probation.

A major key in Florida's national title hopes will be the SEC playoff, set Dec. 5 in Birmingham. Interestingly, since the winner goes to the Sugar Bowl (and there MUST be a winner), the NCAA has given the SEC approval for a tiebreaker system in case there is a deadlock at the end of regulation.



Rick Mirer passed up the riches of the NFL for one last shot at a national championship.



FLORIDA STATE

The Seminoles lost heavily (only nine returnees) from the team which was last season's preseason No.1, but there is still plenty of talent in Tallahassee.

"Oh, we'll be just as talented, maybe even more so," said Coach Bobby Bowden. "How these new boys mature and how quickly they gain that experience will determine just how good we will be."

It's the first season for the Seminoles in the Atlantic Coast Conference. And, yes, they will play a full ACC schedule in their first season, one of the reasons we have FSU so high in our preseason ratings. It figures that a rebuilding FSU is better than anything the ACC can offer.

Don't expect, however, to hear Bowden licking his chops just yet.

"You had better not underestimate the ACC," he said. "Don't forget they had a national champion in 1990 and our experience with Clemson through the years has been all out war."

The rest of the schedule is a killer. The Seminoles play Miami, Florida and Tulane. It gets tougher next season. They replace Tulane with Notre Dame.

The most interesting fall battle will be at quarterback. Charlie Ward and Kenny Felder are waging a duel to replace Casey Weldon, last year's Heisman runnerup.

Ward is a fascinating prospect because of his athletic ability. He played point guard for the FSU basketball team which finished second to Duke in the expanded ACC.

"Great athlete, great leader, great person," said Bowden of Ward. "When we went from Peter Tom Willie to Casey

Weldon, we were able to do alot more with our offense. If we end up going from Weldon to Ward we'll be able to do even more."

There are other interesting battles for vacant spots. But the Seminoles will put superb athletes on the field no matter who emerges as the winners.

For instance, Bowden is confident the Seminoles will be scorpions on defense.

"I feel pretty darn good," he said. "There must be 25 guys that have some game experience on that side of the ball and that's encouraging."



Florida's Errict Rhett, the SEC's leading rusher in 1991 with 1,109 yards, became the first back in school history to rush for 1,000 yards and catch at least 40 passes in a season.

6 TEXAS A&M

Recruiting wins championships. No one in the Southwest Conference has recruited like the Aggies over the last five seasons. There is so much depth and talent in College Station that the cadets should put together their second straight unbeaten league campaign.

A&M returns 27 of the 44 players listed on its two-deep roster at the close of last season. The Aggies lost quarterback Bucky Richardson, but return tailback Greg Hill. The slashing Hill made 1,216 yards and 12 touchdowns to earn Freshman All-American honors.

The offensive line should be the SWC's best again this season. The returnees up front are guard John Ellisor and tackle Tyler Harrison.

The Aggies, with the best speed in the league, will be tough again on defense. Only Tulsa solved the A&M blitz last season. Linebackers Marcus Buckley and Jason Atkinson are back after combining for 153 tackles and a whopping 32 tackles for losses. They also combined for 20 quarterback sacks, including a league-leading 13 by Buckley. Patrick Bates (64 tackles) is an intimidating force at safety.

7 PENN STATE

The Big Ten arranged for the Nittany Lions to compete for league championships this season in every sport except football. They are good enough to be favored in football.

Penn State returns 11 full time starters and 10 others who started anywhere from one to five games last fall. The leading rusher (tailback Richie Anderson), scorer (kicker Craig Fayak), tackler (safety Lee Rubin) and top return specialists (O.J. McDuffie and Anderson) are all back.

The focus is on quarterback where Penn State lost four-year starter Tony Sacca. Leading candidates are Kerry Collins (top backup last year) and John Sacca, Tony's brother.

It doesn't sound like veteran coach Joe Paterno is concerned about replacing Sacca.

"Kerry is not much different than Tony," Paterno said. "He's not quite as fast as Tony but he is the same kind of kid physically (6-4, 220) with a big, strong arm."

The Nittany Lions have recruited well in recent seasons. Most assume they will have little problem rebuilding from an 11-2 season which put them No. 3 after a thumping of Tennessee in the Fiesta Bowl.

"We have a nice nucleus returning and a number of young people who were either reserves or special team players a year ago that appear ready to assume more significant roles."

8 MICHIGAN

Most everyone knows Desmond Howard no longer plays football in Ann Arbor. He left one season early for the NFL.

What most don't know is that the Wolverines are still in great shape for another run at the Rose Bowl.

Every preseason publication we've seen has Michigan at least sixth. We think that's a bit high because the Big Ten has been overrated the last few years. (Rose Bowl results are proof.)

Obviously, his favorite target is gone, but quarterback Elvis Grbac, a powerful 6-foot-5 senior, should have ample time to look for new receivers behind another huge Michigan line.

Michigan might be good enough to win the Big Ten by two games. The chief challenge for the Wolverines will come from Ohio State, improved after hiring Offensive Coordinator Joe Hollis and regaining back Robert Smith.

9 NEBRASKA

The Cornhuskers return just 13 starters, but it is a crime to leave them out of any preseason top 20.

Coach Tom Osborne wants to try the one-back set, but the running game will continue to be the team's greatest strength. The offensive line is solid.

Quarterback could be interesting. Mike Grant is the leader, but redshirt freshman Tony Veland earned a legitimate shot at the job during the spring when Grant was hurt.

Defensively, linebacker and the secondary are also strengths. Safeties Tyrone Byrd and Steve Carmer give the Cornhuskers one of the nation's most consistent tandems.

Nebraska is favored in the Big Eight Conference, but an early date at Washington (Sept. 19) could push it out of the national title picture.

10 GEORGIA

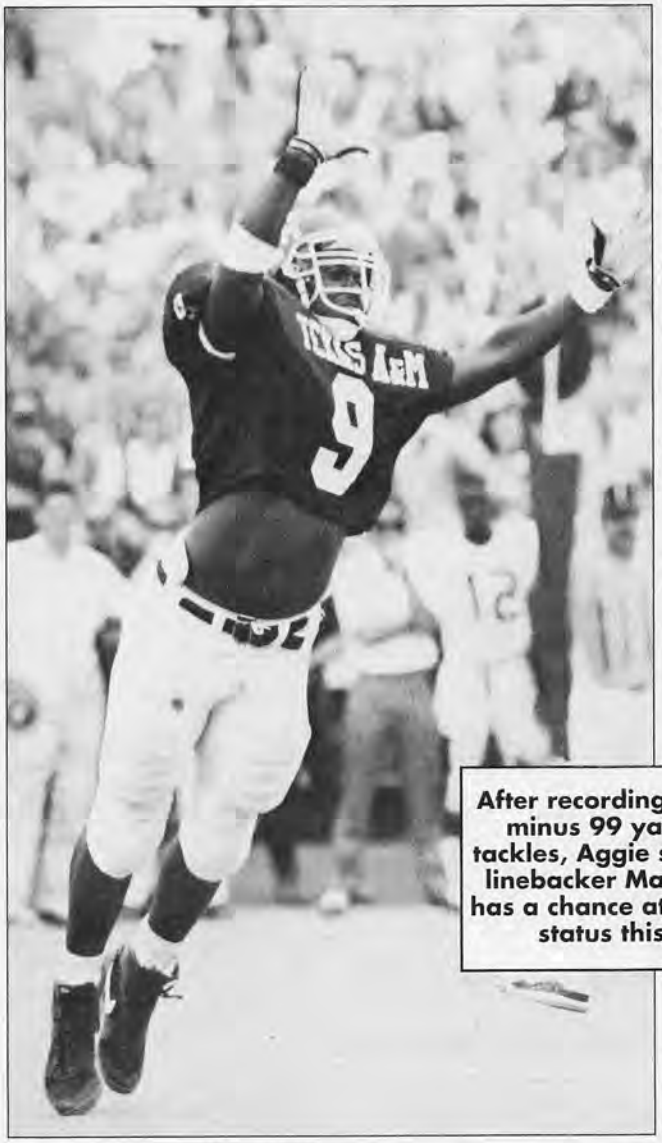
The Bulldogs have the talent, experience and enthusiasm to do better than this position. The schedule isn't bad either. They play just three true road games — if you count Jacksonville, Fla. as a neutral site for the annual grudge match with Florida, the favorite in the SEC West.

Quarterback Eric Zeier, SEC Freshman of the Year last season, sparkled in the spring game. He now looks comfortable with the kind of pass-pass offense Shane Matthews dazzled with at Florida. More importantly, Georgia coach Ray Goff seems comfortable with the new offense, too.

With 15 starters back, the Bulldogs appear loaded. The only problem is that most everyone in the SEC is in a similar position.

Tailback Garrison Hearst and flanker Andre Hastings should keep the pressure off of Zeier.

Zeier, a sophomore who was considered the nation's top prospect two years ago as a prepster at Marietta, Ga., started the final six games of last season. He set an SEC record by throwing only four interceptions in 286 attempts while breaking Georgia marks for completions (159), attempts (286) and passing yards (1,984).



After recording 13 sacks for minus 99 yards and 56 tackles, Aggie senior outside linebacker Marcus Buckley has a chance at All-American status this season.

11 COLORADO

Things are changing in Boulder. A new offense (more passes) and a less predictable defense (more blitzes) may mean Coach Bill McCartney thinks the Buffs are losing their talent edge.

"By virtue of the fact that the coaching staffs (at the other Big Eight schools) are returning intact, I think it promises to be a tight race," McCartney said. "The gap is continuing to close."

The Buffs have the nation's best tandem of inside linebackers in Greg Biekert and Chad Brown. But, they lost so heavily in both lines it is difficult to project the Buffs high in the national race.

The Buffs' early schedule (Colorado State, Baylor, Minnesota and Iowa) is a perfect warm-up for a run at a national title. It is not extremely difficult, but has enough name foes to turn some heads for a team which can escape unscathed.

12 OKLAHOMA

The Sooners are hard to figure. They are unusually thin in both lines. Any injuries will prevent them from making a run at the league title, much less a national crown.

But Gale Gundy's passing and Kenyon Rasheed's brute plunges give the Sooners a starting point. It might have helped if Gundy would have played football in the spring, but OU must still rate at least as a league contender.

It will be interesting to see if the Sooners continue to add to the passing game which was so effective in the Gator Bowl.

The defense must be listed as a question mark because of the losses of Joe Bowden and Chris Wilson, the inside linebackers and the team's apparent heart and soul. Returning starters Reggie Barnes, a legitimate Butkus nominee, and Trey Tippens give the Sooners strength at the outside and corner Darnell Walker is a interception animal.

In summation, the Sooners have yet to fully recover from NCAA sanctions. They are probably still one year away.



The Husker secondary looks intimidating again with 11 lettermen from last season returning including safety Steve Carmer (31) and Kenny Wilhite (19). Wilhite has recovered from a knee injury suffered last season, while Carmer is coming off his best year after finishing third on the team with 71 tackles.



Alabama's Gene Stallings has the numbers to be competitive in the SEC with 54 returning lettermen. He has compiled an 18-6 record in two years at the helm.

13 ALABAMA

A team which returns 16 starters from an 11-1 season might be favored in any other league, but the SEC is loaded and the Tide saw a lot of breaks last year.

Florida whipped Alabama, 35-0, last year, a big reason we can't favor the Tide this season. However, Alabama has an easy early schedule and does not have to face Georgia or Florida.

Alabama returns every starter but two on offense, but they were key players — tailback Siran Stacy and fullback Kevin Turner.

Defensive end John Copeland, running back Derrick Lassic, flanker David Palmer and free safety George Teague are all-star candidates.

However, Alabama's main strength is in its numbers and experience. The Tide returns 54 lettermen. Those lettermen know how to win the close games. The Tide won its last six games of 1991 by a touchdown or less.

14 SYRACUSE

The Orange was supposed to be a year away from excellence last season, but surprised with a 10-2 record and a final No. 11 rating in the AP poll.

It was quite a debut for Coach Paul Pasqualoni, but his second team should be better. Quarterback Marvin Graves, already atop most Syracuse career statistical lists, is recovered from the various injuries which hampered his play down the stretch. His favorite target is senior Qadry Ismail, who averaged 125.8 per game in all-purpose yards.

The Orange faces a difficult schedule, climaxed by the finale at Miami most believe will be for the Big East Conference championship. Syracuse went 5-0 versus Big



Oklahoma's Trey Tippens has played in the shadows of outstanding linebackers during his first three years, but now has a starting job and a chance to improve on his 47 tackles of a year ago.

East competition last season, but did not play National Champ Miami.

Nine starters return on offense, six on defense.

15 IOWA

The Hawkeyes lost more than football players during the off-season. Offensive Coordinator Carl Jackson joined the San Francisco 49ers and Line Coach John O'Hara died.

But is there anyone who thinks Hayden Fry's 14th Iowa team will be far below last season? The Hawkeyes have gone to 10 bowls under Fry. They should add to that total this season.

There are 13 starters back, including five on offense who earned All-Big Ten last season. The veterans may get a boost from a large freshman class. Most of the 1991 class, rated among the nation's best, was redshirted. Plus, the 1992 class may be the school's best. Fry indicates some will play.

The key question is at quarterback where Iowa lost Matt Rodgers. He joined Chuck Long as the only Hawkeye quarterbacks to throw for 2,000 yards in three straight seasons.

However, Jim Hartlieb, an all-league academic selection, led the Hawkeyes to two victories last season when Rodgers was hurt. Hartlieb completed 14-of-15 passes for 241 yards in the spring drills and is also a fine runner.

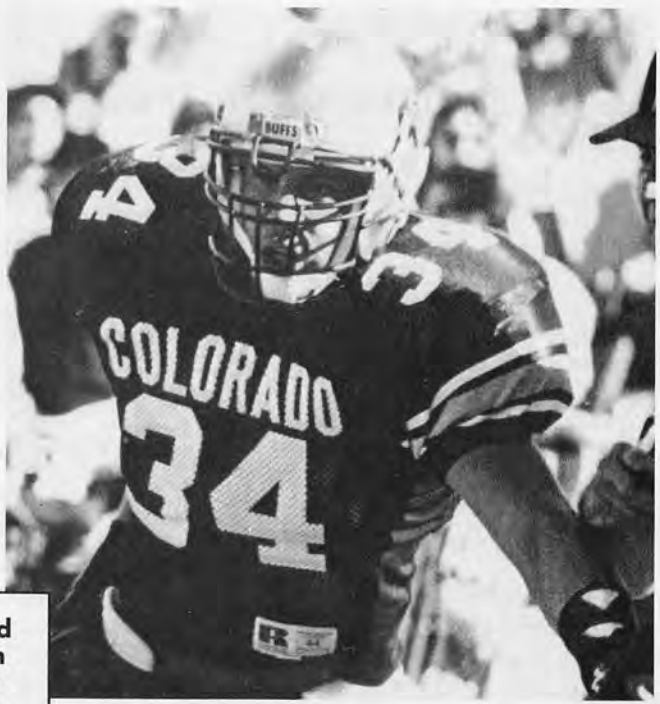
The Hawkeyes also have an outstanding group of receivers, including two capable tight ends. Danan Hughes is back after 43 grabs for 757 yards last season. His 17.6 yards per catch led the league.

16 CLEMSON

The Tigers have the third-best record in college football over the last five years, but must replace four first-team All-Americans from the 1991 team.

Clemson does return 12 starters and all-league placekicker in Nelson Welch. Other stars returning are wide receiver Terry Smith (52 catches) and free safety Robert O'Neal (Thorpe Award candidate). The Tigers also return their top nine receivers.

Richard Moncrief is the heir apparent at quarterback after taking 154 snaps in a backup role. He won the offensive MVP award in the Coca-Cola Bowl by leading a 26-point fourth quarter. Clemson led the ACC in rushing last year with 255 yards per game, the eighth best figure in the nation. Of that total, 78.9 percent returns for this season led by Rodney Blunt. Over the last six regular season games Blunt averaged 91.2 yards a game.



Outside linebacker Chad Brown was a first team All-Big Eight pick after racking up 125 tackles.

17 STANFORD

Much of the talk about the Cardinal centers around the return of Bill Walsh as head coach. That is unfortunate. Stanford's football team is just as impressive as its new skipper.

Stanford returns 16 starters (10 on defense) from a team which rolled to an 8-4 overall mark, including 6-2 in the Pacific 10. The Cardinal has two superstars in running back Glyn Milburn (former Sooner) and outside linebacker Ron George.

With the graduation loss of fullback Tommy Vardell, Walsh has made some changes in his offensive system to take advantage of a talented and experienced line.

"That is certainly one of our strengths," Walsh said. "We will run a more sweeping, trapping style on offense. Consequently, our line has new skills to learn."

Quarterback is in capable hands. Junior Steve Stenstrom, listed as third team this time last season, emerged to lead Stanford to seven straight victories to close out the regular season.

18 BAYLOR

Grant Teaff's last season as coach before he retires to the office of athletic director should be a grand one. The Bears can't handle Texas A&M, but should be formidable with the return of quarterback J.J. Joe and seasoned runners David Mims and Robert Strait. Flanker Melvin Bonner ranks among the SWC's top big-play specialists. Joe connected on 109-of 206 passes last season for 1,853 yards and seven touchdowns, while Mims led the team in rushing with 852 yards and three scores on 148 attempts. Strait scored six times, but rushed for only 551 yards in a limited role.

The Bears must replace some standouts in the defensive front, but linebacker Le'Shai Maston was one of the league's best. Still, Baylor will not be nearly as rough on defense as the team which throttled Colorado, 16-14, early last season.

19 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

If returning starters mean anything, the Trojans will win more than the Pacific-10 title. They will win their ninth national title.

However, it's not like the Trojans wanted all of them back. USC slumped to 3-8 last season.

But watch out for the Trojans. They won the Rose Bowl after their last two losing seasons — in 1962 and 1984. Also, the last time the Trojans returned 18 starters (1989), they went 9-2-1, won the Rose Bowl and finished No.8 in the country.

Despite all those favorable omens, the truth remains that USC must regroup.

USC features a pair of all-league performers in flanker Curtis Conway and tackle Tony Boselli. The backfield returns intact.

"We'll come back this year," said Coach Larry Smith. "But we've got to take it one step at a time. Our main objectives are to produce a high-scoring offense and a big-play defense.

"Last year is behind us. We have a lot of very hungry players who are looking forward to 1992."

20 MISSISSIPPI STATE

With 19 starters back, things may have never been more optimistic in Starkville at season's outset.

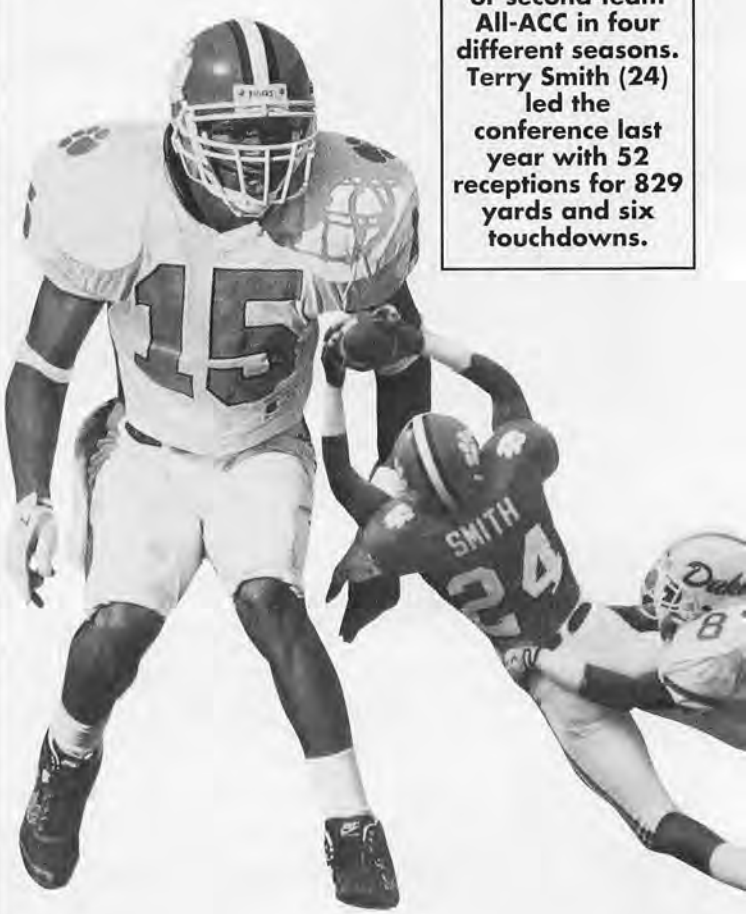
Second-year coach Jackie Sherrill, 4-3 in his first season, has a nifty option quarterback in William Robinson and nine other starters back on offense. Robinson, who was the SEC's No. 2 quarterback in passing efficiency with 132.9 yards a game last season, completed 77-of-141 passes for 1,167 yards in the option-oriented offense. He also led the Bulldogs in rushing with 543 yards and five touchdowns on 154 carries.

But there is little doubt the team's strength was defense. Inside linebacker Daniel Boyd, a squatty 230-pounder, is the anchor. Both ends and both outside linebackers also return.

Boyd, a second-team All-SEC performer, ranked second in total tackles as a sophomore with 99 and as a junior with 112.

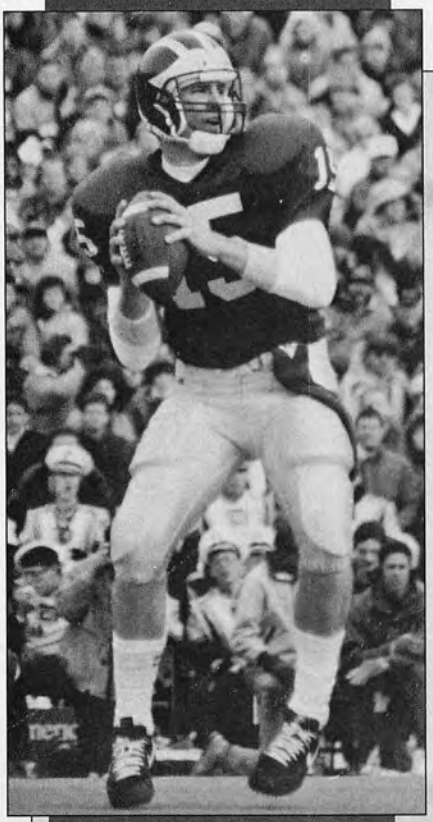
The Bulldogs also have standout returnees in wide receiver Willie Harris and offensive tackle John James. Harris led the team in receptions (24) and receiving yardage (529). James was a first-team All-Conference pick last year after starting for four-straight years. ■

Clemson free safety Robert O'Neal (15) has a chance to become the first football player in school history to be first- or second-team All-ACC in four different seasons. Terry Smith (24) led the conference last year with 52 receptions for 829 yards and six touchdowns.



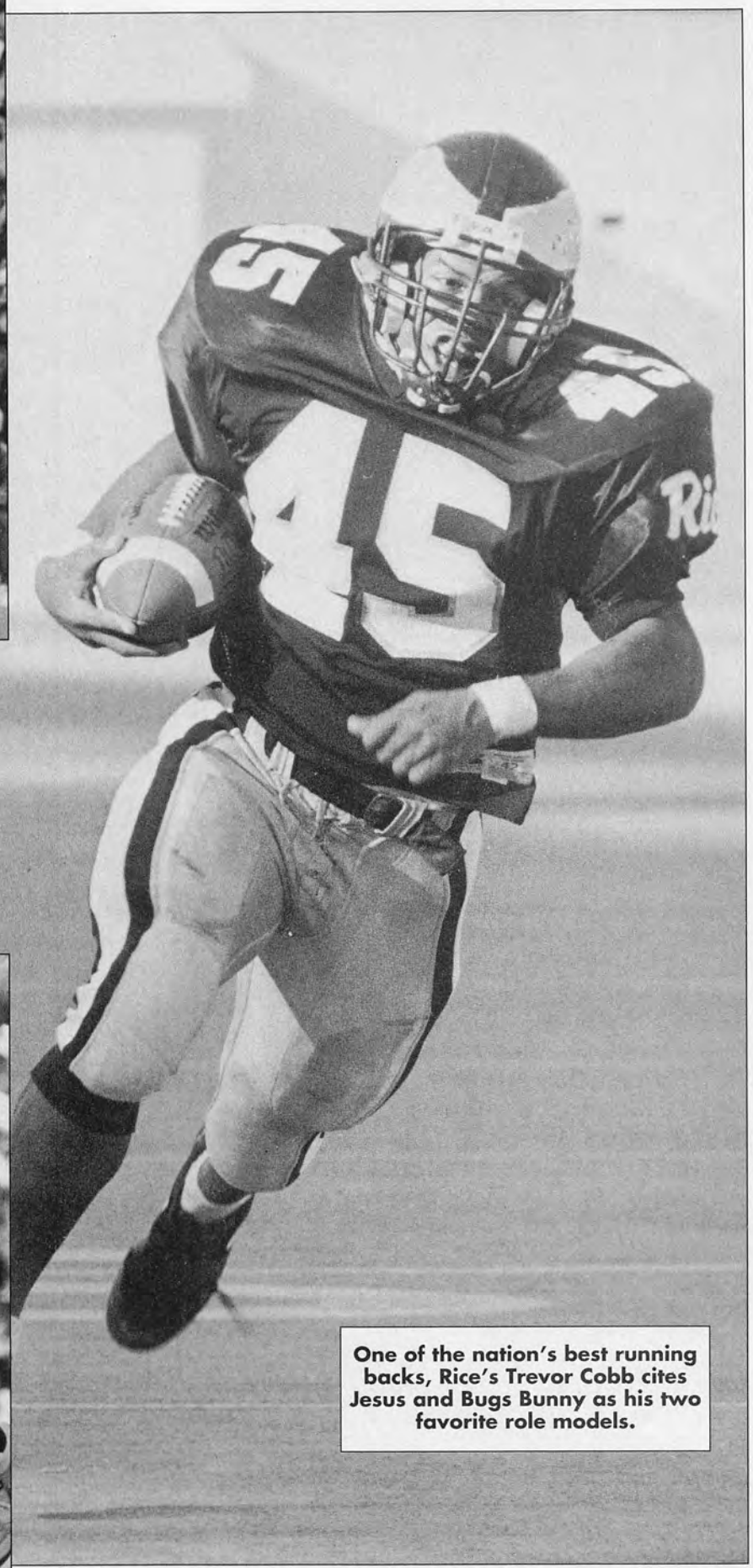


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Elvis Grbac (above) may finally reach his potential this season as an All-American quarterback. Rusty Medearis (below) is the ringleader of Miami's Gashouse Gang.





One of the nation's best running backs, Rice's Trevor Cobb cites Jesus and Bugs Bunny as his two favorite role models.

1992 All-Americans

By Randy Krehbiel

The names and faces of college football have always belonged to young men on the move. Their careers, limited to four seasons and sometimes part of a fifth, have flitted briefly through our autumn Saturdays.

Now their appearances are even more brief. This year 11 underclassmen were picked in the first round of the National Football League draft. Heisman Trophy winner Desmond Howard, Outland and Lombardi winner Steve Emtman, Jim Thorpe recipient Terrell Buckley and *Associated Press* All-Americans Carl Pickens and Bob Whitfield were among those making an early entry into the NFL. Perhaps most disturbing to coaches, UCLA's sophomore quarterback, Tommy Maddox, was a first-round pick of the Denver Broncos.

Where does that leave college football? The 34 players who made themselves available for this year's draft represent a minuscule percentage of the total number of players in Division I-A, let alone all divisions. Nevertheless, the impact of the open NFL draft continues to be felt.

At the upper talent levels, it seems to have hit hardest at linemen. The top six rushers, top seven pass receivers and six of the top nine passers from 1991 return in 1992. But top-notch interior linemen, especially on defense, are becoming more scarce. Only one of the 12 defensive linemen picked to the three 1991 *Associated Press* All-American teams will be back this fall. Only two of the 15 offensive linemen will return.

QUARTERBACK

From the first day he picked up a football, one word best described Elvis Grbac — potential.

At 6-foot-5 and 220 pounds, Grbac had the build of another John Elway. His arm, perhaps, was not in the same howitzer class, but it was still strong and accurate enough to set him apart. It was enough to convince the University of Michigan, which does not exactly have to go begging for football players, to give a raw kid from Willoughby Hills, Ohio, a chance.

And it was a gamble. Grbac was an option quarterback in high school and, for all of his size and strength, might not have been noticed by anyone had he not been throwing to a slippery, little wide receiver named Desmond Howard.

There is no doubt that Howard was the prize recruit, an opinion proved last season when he scored a touchdown every fourth time he touched the ball and won the Heisman Trophy.

But Grbac was something special, too, and he proved it in 1989 when, as a redshirt freshman, he replaced the injured Michael Taylor for four games and finished the season ranked 13th nationally in passing efficiency.

Still, for two seasons Grbac was viewed as a set-up man for Howard and — most damaging — a potential loose cannon in tight situations. By his own admission, he "got too excited in big games." Grbac's coach, Gary Moeller, said, "I have no problem with Elvis throwing the ball. But how well does he find the receiver and run the offense? That's what El has to answer."

In 1991, Grbac had that answer. He opened the season by completing 20-of-22 passes against Notre Dame, including a victory-clinching 25-yard touchdown to Howard on fourth down, and went on to lead the nation in passing efficiency and break Rick Leach's school record career for touchdown passes last season.

Beating Notre Dame, and doing it with such precision passing, got a very large monkey off of Grbac's maize and blue back.

Notre Dame had beaten the Wolverines three years in a row, the last two with Grbac at quarterback. He had completed 34-of-51 passes against the Irish, but interceptions, most notably two big ones in 1990, had greatly contributed to the reservations Moeller and others had about him. Confident and poised, he led Michigan to the Rose Bowl while completing 67 percent of his passes with 24 touchdowns and just five interceptions.



Marshall Faulk (above) rushed for more than 1,400 yards last season while missing three games with cracked ribs. An aspiring actor, Sean LaChapelle (below) broke UCLA reception records last season.



"What a lot of people don't know," said Howard, "is that our offense comes and goes with Elvis."

Some wonder, though, if Michigan's passing offense went to the NFL with Howard. Nineteen of Grbac's 1991 touchdowns were to his longtime battery mate; together they combined for an NCAA record of 31 touchdowns during their three years together at Michigan.

Certainly, the relationship of Grbac and Howard was a special one. But the spectacular numbers the two of them put up in 1991 were not only a product of Howard's ability, they also reflected Grbac's new maturity.

Howard may have been Grbac's primary target, but not the only one. His five interceptions (half the 1990 total) in 228 attempts attest to a greater awareness and understanding of the passing game.

"One of my goals," Grbac said last season, "is more patience."

It's that patience that is making Elvis Grbac more than a "potential" star.

RUNNING BACK

When the hands of underclassmen declaring for the National Football League draft began shooting up this winter, there were many reasons to think one of them would belong to Rice's Trevor Cobb.

Cobb had just finished the second most productive season ever for a Southwest Conference runner. He was winner of the Doak Walker Award. He had led the nation in rushing yards per game for most of the season before finishing third. His 1,692 yards were second by only seven to Indiana's Vaughn Dunbar. He already held school records for season and career rushing and career touchdowns.

One would think credentials such as those gave Cobb market value. Certainly it caused the Owls to swell with pride. But it also was cause of considerable nervousness, for with Cobb as the featured performer in its offense, the long-suffering Night Birds figured to have their best team in three decades in 1992.

But Cobb told the folks at Rice not to fear. He would be back.

Those familiar with Cobb could not say they were really surprised, though. Cobb has always looked at life differently than most. He assuredly would not have enrolled at Rice in the first place, otherwise.

Rice was not the sort of place a Houston all-city running back went. It had not had a winning season since the days of one-platoon football, and its offense traditionally revolved around a complicated passing game.

But if Rice was not your traditional Tailback U., Cobb is not your average tailback. Cobb is the drummer — that's right, drummer — in his church choir. He does not have a telephone or television. His two favorite role models are Jesus Christ and Bugs Bunny.

Bugs Bunny?

"He's always calm and cool," Cobb explains.

Cobb was one of Coach Fred Goldsmith's first recruits. Goldsmith told Cobb that things were about to change at Rice. He said it would now be a running team. And it would win.

To Goldsmith's utter surprise, Cobb said, "Where do I sign?"

The promise to put Cobb to work was quickly fulfilled. He rushed for a Rice freshman record of 545 yards in 1989, and followed that with 1,325 in 1990, while earning first-team All-SWC recognition. In 1991, he averaged 33 attempts per game and had nine straight 100-yard outings. He is on a pace that will make him the SWC's all-time rushing leader sometime next season.

"He's the best back I've ever worked with," said Goldsmith. "There's no telling what his numbers might have been if we had been a veteran team."

Or a winning team. For while the Owls have indeed become a run-oriented team and are greatly improved, they have yet to break a 28-year string of sub-.500 seasons that has some influential alumni suggesting football, if not all sports, should be dropped by Rice.

The losing, said Cobb, is one reason he decided to play another season for the Owls. He wants to go out on top, in more ways than one.

"I want to leave Rice a winner," he said. "And, I feel like the challenge of winning the Heisman Trophy will help me do better."

Our other running back, Marshall Faulk of San Diego State, finished 10th in last year's Heisman Trophy voting as a true freshman. Like Cobb, he surfaced in a most unusual place.

The Aztecs, too, were a team with a checkered past. What reputation they had was for wide-open passing.

But in 1991, Faulk became the first true freshman ever to lead the nation in rushing and scoring. He missed three games because of cracked ribs, but still rushed for more than 1,400 yards and scored 23 touchdowns in nine games.

Brigham Young Coach LaVell Edwards calls Faulk "as exciting a young running back as I've seen in a number of years. He has the good running ability and speed, but two other things really impress me. One is his strength, he always falls forward. The other factor is that he's developed the mental toughness to carry the ball 25 times game in and game out. Most players have to develop that capacity over a period of time."

RECEIVER

Clarence Williams II had only the briefest influence on Clarence Williams III, but it is an influence that will last a lifetime.

The elder Williams flashed across West Coast football fields in a blaze of glory for a dozen years during the 1960s and '70s. As a one-platoon All-American at Washington State and a defensive back for eight years with the Los Angeles Rams, Clancy Williams was a free-wheeling free spirit. In 1965 he led WSU in scoring, rushing, total offense, receiving, punt returns and kickoff returns. In the NFL he was one of the few men ever to catch Bullet Bob Hayes from behind.

But when his pro career ended in 1973, Clancy Williams found himself working in the mailroom of the *Los Angeles Times*. In 1985 he went home to Renton, Wash., dying from cancer of the liver and pancreas, in a final effort to get to know the son he had seen only sporadically in 19 years.

It would not be accurate to describe Butch Williams as the spitting image of his father. He is bigger, stronger and not as fast. But those who knew them both say when Butch is in motion — running, catching passes — the resemblance is striking. And, until Clancy came home to die, so was their attitude toward school.

No one ever doubted Butch Williams' ability to play major college football. He made all-state as a junior at Renton High, and again as a senior. There was, however, considerable doubt about Williams' ability to get into a major college.

But during those final hours he

How the Best Stack Up

QUARTERBACKS

Our Pick: Elvis Grbac, Michigan.
Others: Shane Matthews, Florida; Troy Kopp, Pacific; Rick Mirer, Notre Dame; Gino Toretta, Miami.
Sleeper: Eric Zeier, Georgia.

RUNNING BACKS

Our Picks: Trevor Cobb, Rice; Marshall Faulk, San Diego State.
Others: Ryan Benjamin, Pacific; Jerome Bettis, Notre Dame; Derek Brown, Nebraska; Tico Duckett, Michigan State; Errict Rhett, Florida.
Sleeper: Greg Hill, Texas A&M.

RECEIVERS

Our Picks: Wide Receivers — Aaron Turner, Pacific; Sean LaChapelle, UCLA. **Tight End** — Clarence Williams, Washington State.
Others: Wide Receivers — Fred Gilbert, Houston; Marcus Grant, Houston; Greg Primus, Colorado State; Qadry Ismail, Syracuse; Lamar Thomas, Miami; Andre Hastings, Georgia **Tight Ends** — Pat Akos, Vanderbilt; John Henry Mills, Wake Forest; Alan Cross, Iowa.
Sleeper: Thomas Bailey, Auburn.

OFFENSIVE LINE

Our Picks: Tackles — Lincoln Kennedy, Washington; Justin Hall, Notre Dame. **Guards** — Will Shields, Nebraska; Aaron Taylor, Notre Dame. **Center** — Mike Devlin, Iowa.
Others: Travis Broadbent, Rutgers; Joe Cocozzo, Michigan; Mike Compton, West Virginia; John James, Mississippi State; Quentin Neujahr, Kansas State; Jeff Resler, Oklahoma; Todd Steussie, California; Craig Novitsky, UCLA.
Sleeper: Jeff Boselli, USC.

DEFENSIVE LINE

Our Picks: Rusty Medearis, Miami; Chris Hutchinson, Michigan; Mike Chalenski, UCLA.
Others: John Copeland, Alabama; Kevin Mitchell, Syracuse; Coleman Rudolph, Georgia Tech; Leonard Renfro, Colorado; Dana Stubblefield, Kansas; Jeff Zgonina, Purdue.
Sleeper: Pat Riley, Miami.

LINEBACKERS

Our Picks: Outside — Travis Hill, Nebraska; Darrin Smith, Miami. **Inside** — Marvin Jones, Florida State; Demetrius DuBose, Notre Dame.
Others: Arnold Ale, UCLA; Reggie Barnes, Oklahoma; Michael Barrow, Miami; Brooks Barta, Kansas State; Greg Biekert, Colorado; Chad Brown, Colorado; Jason Gildon, Oklahoma State; Dave Hoffman, Washington; Barry Minter, Tulsa; Steve Tovar, Ohio State.
Sleeper: Dana Howard, Illinois.

SECONDARY

Our Picks: Cornerback — Carlton Gray, UCLA; Walter Bailey, Washington. **Safeties** — Will White, Florida; Tracy Saul, Texas Tech.
Others: Corwin Brown, Michigan; Ray Buchanan, Louisville; Tyrone Byrd, Nebraska; Eric Castle, Oregon; Roger Harper, Ohio State; Antonio Langham, Alabama; Jimmy Young, Purdue.
Sleeper: Larry Kennedy, Florida.





Nebraska's Will Shields (above) and Washington's Lincoln Kennedy both arrived at school with weight problems. Shields couldn't bench enough and Kennedy weighed too much.

spent with his son, Clancy Williams did his best to atone for the years apart. Terry Ennis, Butch Williams' high school coach, calls the change in Butch "dramatic," and said he will never forget "how hard he worked to qualify for that scholarship. It wasn't cramming for an exam, but working on a daily basis. It took great effort, and he did it."

At Washington State Williams entered the starting lineup in 1990 as a third-year sophomore and made 43 receptions for 627 yards and three touchdowns, and was the All-Pac-10 tight end. Last year his receptions slipped to 31, for 389 yards, but again Williams was the all-conference tight end. He is one of three West Coast receivers on our All-American team.

Another is fast-talking Sean LaChapelle of UCLA. The 6-4, 210-pound senior describes himself as a former petroleum transfer engineer (gas station attendant) and aspiring actor. For now, he is merely one of the cleverest receivers in college football.

A former prep All-American, LaChapelle began fulfilling that promise by catching 73 passes last season for 1,056 yards and 11 touchdowns. Those marks broke school records which previously belonged to such notables as Mike Farr, Flipper Anderson, Bob Wilkinson and JoJo Townsell, and got him a place on the Associated Press' All-American second team.

LaChapelle is no burner, but his powers of concentration are extraordinary, and he understands that speed is not as important to getting open as savvy. And — he claims — he loves to go over the middle.

"The way I look at it," he has said, "you have a lot of field to work with so it's a better place to be."

Our other wide receiver, Pacific's Aaron Turner, has made the most of a system that is a pass-catcher's delight. Last year the Tigers passed for 343 yards per game and led the nation with 42 scoring strikes. In so doing, Pacific became the first I-A team ever with a 3,500-yard passer (Troy Kopp), 1,500-yard rusher (Ryan Benjamin) and 1,500 receiver (Turner).

To be exact, Turner's contribution amounted to 92 receptions for 1,604 yards and 18 touchdowns. The yardage led the nation, the receptions and touchdowns were second.

And the frightening news for Pacific's opponents is that Kopp, Benjamin and Turner all return in 1991.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The road to prominence is a long one for most offensive linemen. Traditionally, it has begun with a redshirt year, wound through two or even three seasons of arduous, thankless work as a scout team or reserve player, and finally culminated in a brief moment of reflected glory — reflected, because most of the direct praise goes to flashy halfbacks, daring receivers and swashbuckling quarterbacks.

That course may be the norm, but increasingly, exceptions are being made to it. The combination of better weight training in high school and fewer able bodies in college programs are speeding more and more linemen to earlier debuts.

Even Nebraska, with its history of massive, mass-produced linemen is susceptible. No longer is it necessary to spend years in training, bulking up and reading up on the Huskers' offense, to not only move into a starting spot, but to attain star status.

Not, anyway, if you are Will Shields.

Three years ago, Shields became the second true freshman to letter in Nebraska's line since the reinstitution of freshman eligibility in 1972. Two years ago he became the first true sophomore Nebraska lineman to be named all-conference since the return of two-platoon football in 1965.

Another first happened in 1988 when the prep all-stater snubbed the Crimson and Cream of Oklahoma to travel to Nebraska. Shields, named the Oklahoman Lineman of the Year in 1987, helped lead Lawton High School to the state title that same year.

Last year, though, the "firsts" ran out. Shields became just another in a long line of NU All-Americans.

As amazing as his rapid rise to stardom has been, more so is the fact that everyone agrees the 6-foot-1, 290-pound Shields has barely scratched the surface of his possibilities.

Longtime Nebraska assistant Milt Tenopir rates Shields' athletic ability with that of Outland and Lombardi winner Dean Steinkuhler. His upper body strength, even now, does not match Steinkuhler's, but Shields has been able to compensate with tenacity and explosiveness.

But he's working on the strength. When Shields arrived in Lincoln, he bench-pressed a measly 215 pounds — 95-pound weakling stuff by Nebraska standards. Two years later, his lift was up to 315 and rising.

Another of our linemen had a weight problem of a different sort when he arrived on a college campus.

Washington's Lincoln Kennedy weighed in at 347 pounds when he reported to Seattle for freshman camp four years ago. Even at a school noted for its huge linemen, that was a record.

The Huskies immediately put Kennedy on a diet and that, along with football practice, took off 50 pounds in three months. It was almost too much too fast.

"When I was around 320 pounds, it really got hard," he said. "My body couldn't take it. I was drained. I was sick."

He was also an All-American in the making.

Many large players require a complete "tear-down" before they can be effective on the college level. Shear bulk is no longer enough. Muscle and stamina are required. So it was with Kennedy.

After getting below 300 pounds that first year, Kennedy rebuilt himself back to a solid 325. Moved to offense after a trial at noseguard, he matured into an all-conference tackle as a sophomore and last year was voted the Pacific-10 Conference's Outstanding Offensive Lineman by the league's defensive linemen.

Completing the offensive line are a couple of veterans from Notre Dame, tackle Justin Hall and guard Aaron Taylor and All-Big Ten center Mike Devlin of Iowa.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

On its way to becoming college football's contemporary dynasty, the University of Miami has picked up a succession of colorful, larger-than-life characters. If they were a little too colorful for some sensibilities, a little larger-than-their-pants in some estimations, they were also enormously gifted. The Hurricanes' boasts were seldom idle.

Junior defensive tackle Rusty Medearis is the current ringleader of Miami's Gashouse Gang. If he is less outrageous than some of his predecessors, he is no less effective — or committed to Miami's traditions.

"He's got that University of Miami attitude," his high school coach, Phil Montgomery, once said. "Off the field he's one of the nicest kids you could meet. On the field, he's got that arrogance and attitude."

Medearis burst upon the scene two seasons ago with five sacks in his first start and has hardly slowed down since. Medearis is not particularly big at 6-foot-3, 255 pounds, or fast (a tad under 5.0 for the 40), but his 20 career sacks in two seasons already threaten the record of a school known for its pass rushers.

"Rusty is a tenacious football player," Miami Coach Dennis Erickson says. "He takes everything pretty personal."

One might think a third-generation rodeo rider from the hills of Missouri would be out of place in South Florida. Medearis readily admits it is a quantum leap of time and place from Sparta, Mo., to Miami. But it was one Medearis took without hesitation. What some call bad manners he calls excitement.

"I wanted to be here because of the attitude they have," Medearis said. "This team glows with intensity."

But if Medearis fits the Miami image, he also subtly redefines it. Medearis' mayhem is confined to the field, and even there it has limits. Off the field, he is a good student and citizen.

The reason for both sides, Medearis says, is rooted in his rural upbringing. While teammates gently tease him about being a ranch hand, Medearis said life on his family's 700 acres developed strong values.

"I appreciate things a lot more than kids who grew up in the city," he says.

Michigan's Chris Hutchinson traveled a long way to find his football destiny, too. A product of two high school football hotbeds, Ohio and Texas, he went to Ann Arbor (of all places) because, he says, he wanted to play somewhere not obsessed with football.

An interesting statement, but then Hutchinson is an interesting guy. He is a kinesiology major and aspiring surgeon whose idea of fun is watching back surgery. While Miami Defensive Coordinator Lloyd Carr calls him "pound-for-pound, as good a football player as I've ever been around," Hutchinson practices only part time because of a sciatic nerve condition and sounds almost bored by football.





Michigan's Chris Hutchinson (above) overcame a spinal condition to play football, but contends he's looking forward to the end of his career. Mike Chalenski (below) has also battled injury, but when healthy he's the key to the Bruin's defensive stopping power.



A Lombardi finalist a year ago, Marvin Jones (above) is only one of three first-team All-Americans returning. Darrin Smith (below) is a complete package with strength and 4.42 speed.



He claims to be "really looking forward" to the end of his career.

And yet, given a good excuse to chuck it a year ago, Hutchinson returned in 1991 to play the best football of his life.

Since the seventh grade, Hutchinson has suffered from a quirky spinal condition. It flares without warning, causing numbness in his legs. It became so chronic in 1990 that he missed two games entirely and parts of several others, and the coaching staff found it necessary to limit his workouts. Running, especially, seemed to aggravate the problem.

"I really thought I'd played my last game in the Gator Bowl," he said.

Instead, Hutchinson was the linchpin of the 1992 defense. He made 42 tackles, seven for losses, and was an All-Big Ten Conference pick.

UCLA's Mike Chalenski also has had injury problems during his career. A bad shoulder limited his performance in 1990, but after successful off-season surgery, he came back in 1991 to help make the Bruins' defense one of the best in the nation against the run.

LINEBACKER

When Marvin Jones was growing up in Miami, his older brother Fred used to tell him, "Follow in my footsteps, but keep going where they stopped."

And then Fred made sure Marvin followed the advice.

Fred Jones was a good, but not great, linebacker at Florida State in the mid-1980s. He had one brief fling at pro football, then settled down in Miami to become a policeman — and his little brother's personal coach.

He ran him. He worked him. He even took him out in the back yard and went through tackling drills, pads and all, with him. And sure enough, Marvin didn't just follow in Fred's footsteps, he obliterated them.

At Miami's Northwest High School he became the most-recruited prep linebacker in the country. Over their father's objections, Marvin followed Fred to Florida State in 1990. He even took Fred's old No. 55 jersey and moved right in at linebacker.

Wally Burnham, who coached both Joneses at FSU, said it was immediately apparent that the younger Jones was the best linebacker the Seminoles had — and they've had some good ones. Three weeks into the season, Marvin stopped three straight dives over the top during practice, then knocked down a pass in the flat on the next play — even after falling for a fake into the line. From that day on, Marvin has been a starter.

As a 6-foot-2, 215-pound freshman, Marvin played inside linebacker for the Seminoles and led them in tackles with 133. As a sophomore in 1991, he was a Butkus finalist and a first-team All-American, one of only three returning to college football this fall. Tom Heckert, the Miami Dolphins' director of college scouting, has called Marvin Jones the linebacker of the future.

If he is, it is in large measure because of Fred. He became the dominant personality in Marvin's life after the death of their mother in 1983, Fred's freshman year at Florida State. Marvin idolized his older brother, and Fred became determined that Marvin would not become "one of those who has talent, but is lazy."

During the summers, Fred calls at 7:30 a.m. to get his brother out jogging. Later, there is weight training supervised by a brother-in-law, Curtis Derricks. In the evenings Fred and Marvin run sprints, talk football and go through drills. Two or three times a week, that includes putting on pads.

"I'd play a lineman," says Fred, who at 260 now looks the part. "I'd try to knock him off his feet, because I thought he needed some improvement there."

Some might find Fred Jones' ambitions for his brother pushy, even destructive. He talks not only of a Butkus Award for Marvin, but a Heisman Trophy. Among those who know him, respect for the older brother is universal. That includes his brother.

"I love him because he cares about me," says Marvin Jones. "He's made me what I am."

Our other pick at inside linebacker is Notre Dame's Demetrius DuBose. As a junior, his 127 tackles were the most for an Irish player in six years and got him on the *Football News* All-American team. He moved into the starting lineup midway through the 1990 season and finished with 48 tackles.

On the outside are Nebraska's Travis Hill and Miami's Darrin Smith. Hill has been a mainstay of the Huskers' defense for three seasons and was an All-Big Eight selection last

year after leading the team in tackles for loss with a 9.5 yard total per drop.

Smith was the Big East Defensive Player of the Year in 1991. He has the strength to play the running game, but the speed — 4.42 in the 40 — to cover receivers man-to-man.

SECONDARY

The state of Texas is practically haunted by football legends. From the exploits of Davey O'Brien to David Klingler, the tales are told and retold, usually growing taller each time they are.

One of the newest legends is Texas Tech safety Tracy Saul. Neither big nor fast, the small town hero from Idalou threw himself at the Southwest Conference three years ago like the only good guy in a saloon full of black hats.

The black hats are still picking themselves up.

Tough, determined and smart, Saul is a big reason the Red Raiders have won 21 games during his career, including five of their last six in 1991, and expect to be a factor in this year's SWC race.

Saul has intercepted 20 passes in three seasons. With 383 career return yards on those interceptions, he is well within reach of the NCAA record of 470. Saul is also adept at running back punts. He led the SWC in that department in 1989 and '90, and actually had his best season in 1991 when he averaged 12.5 yards per return.

"He's just got that knack," Tech Coach Spike Dykes once said. "He's kind of a natural football player. He plays every game like it's the most important one of his life."

If anything, Dykes has had to caution Saul against pressing too hard. Until ordered off the field last September, because of a sore hamstring and Achilles tendon, Saul had never missed a practice of any kind, at any level.

Dykes calls his star "an improvement freak," and says, "He sets high, far-reaching goals, and sometimes that hurts him because if you're not careful, you don't really enjoy anything."

Saul was an outstanding high school football and basketball player, but there was some question whether he could handle the jump from Class 2A to Division I-A. Saul showed the doubters, and he did it quickly.

When Tech's free safety, Donald Harris, left school early to play pro baseball, Saul immediately became the Red Raiders' nickel back. By the fourth game, he was starting and running back punts.

Saul picked off eight passes that first year, added four in 1990, then got eight more last season to tie for fourth nationally.

Our other All-American pass thief is UCLA cornerback Carlton Gray. His 10 interceptions last year were second nationally to Terrell Buckley's 12.

Unlike Saul, there was never much doubt that Gray was a prospect.

The 1989 National Scholar-Athlete of the Year at Cincinnati's Forest Park High School and a grandson of NAACP director Benjamin Hooks, Gray was fought over by every big name in college football. He actually committed to Miami, but on the last day switched to UCLA because, he said, "I wanted to go to a school known nationally for academics and athletics."

He also found a sagging football program in desperate need of new talent. Although slightly built and, it turned out, a suspect tackler, Gray was rushed straight into action. He became the first true freshman to start for the Bruins' defense in six years.

UCLA Coach Terry Donahue described Gray as "frail" when he arrived in Westwood. Even now, after years of weight work, Donahue says, "He's still not real strong. He's more of a finesse player."

But he is the Bruins' best cover man, and with UCLA's schedule that means going head-to-head with some of the best receivers in the country. Last year, Gray let them know he might not take their heads off, but he will take the ball away.

Florida safety Will White, an All-American in 1990 and two-time All-Southeastern Conference choice, last year held together an inexperienced secondary that should be one of this season's best.

The other corner, Washington's Walter Bailey, became known as the Huskies' "other Bailey" because of the numbers put up by All-American split end Mario. But Walter Bailey had a pretty nice season, too. In his first full year as a starter, he became something of a big play artist, intercepting seven passes — the most at Washington in 19 seasons — and recovered two fumbles. ■



Red Raider Tracy Saul (above) is within 470 yards of breaking the NCAA record for yards after interceptions. He has 20 swipes for 383 yards coming into the season. Another defensive thief, Carlton Gray (below) became the first freshman to start on defense for the Bruins in six years in 1989.



NCAA Rule Changes

by Daryl Blue

Four of the seven major football rules changes adopted by the NCAA Football Rules Committee last winter will be welcomed by college defenses this fall.

A 12-member committe made up of coaches, athletic directors and school representatives met in Kansas City during the thrid week in January to vote on the resolution changes. Among the members on the volunteer committee were Penn State Head Coach Joe Paterno, Ken Hatfield of Clemson, Ron Harris of Texas A&I and Dick Lowry of Hillsdale College.

Included in the relatively low number of changes are the following rules that will benefit the defense:

• Defensive players will be allowed to advance any fumble. Previously, fumbles could be advanced only if they occurred beyond the neutral zone. Backward passes and muffed kicks that hit the ground may not be advanced by the defense.

• Replaced players on offense will be required to leave the huddle immediately so the defense will not be confused by the presence of 12 players.

• Players, who go in motion from the line of scrimmage may not be in motion when the ball is snapped. Players who are in motion at the snap must have established themselves in the backfield before going in motion.

• All Team A players will be required to have been between the 9-yard marks after the ball is ready for play and before the ball is put in play after a timeout or before a free kick. This change was made to prevent a hidden-player situation after a team or TV timeout.



John Adams
Supervisor of Football Officials

Other major rules changes include:

• A 25-second clock will become mandatory in 1993 instead of 1992.

• A block or push in the back above the waist will be a less severe penalty than one below the waist. Blocks or pushes above the waist will be penalized 10 yards for an illegal block in the back, while those below the waist will remain 15-yard clipping fouls.

• Sound-amplification devices have been added to prohibited field equipment, which will make it illegal for coaches to use bullhorns to communicate with players.

University of Nebraska Linebacker Coach Kevin Steele said the change in the fumble advancement rule will not alter how defensive coaches have approached the situation.

"It makes it more of a clear-cut rule," Steele said. "When you're in the heat of battle and the fur is flying, it's hard to know when you can and can't advance a fumble.

"We have always told our players to pick up a fumble and advance it, even if there was a doubt. Now, there will be some consistency and it will make the rule easier to enforce."

Steele said the low number of rule changes apparently indicates the current rules are adequate.

"There are still some rules, from a trainer's standpoint, that might be changed to help cut down on injuries," Steele said. "But, I think for the most part, we need to leave the rules alone for a while."

Steele was pleased that some of next fall's new rules will make life better for the defense.

"Finally, we have some changes for the defense," he said. "We've had all of the changes in passing and blocking."

Most of the rules changes have been basically offensive. It's nice to have another way that the defense can score points."

While the number of major rule changes were few, a clear message surfaced from the committee's meeting last January in Kansas City.

According to an article in *The NCAA News*, the official publication of the organization, the rules committee adopted the philosophy that football rules should be left alone for a few years. The committee also discussed areas of concern, including complaints from some coaches about the way officials administer rules that deal with holding and illegal use of hands by offensive linemen.

In response to the concern expressed about offensive line rules, the committee is urging the Collegiate Commissioners Association to begin an educational effort to improve officials' knowledge of existing rules and standardize the way line play is officiated.

John Adams, supervisor of officials for the Western Athletic Conference and the NCAA's secretary-rules editor, wasn't surprised by the low number of changes.

"We looked at the numbers from last season and there were no new records in running, passing, and kicking," Adams said. "That was an indication that the game is pretty stable. There is no need for a quick fix."

Adams, a member of the Football Rules Committee from 1976-82, served as chairman for two years and attended nine other meetings as an editorial consultant to longtime secretary-rules editor David M. Nelson.

Nelson, a pioneer in the sport who was never afraid to make major changes, died last November, just two months before the 1992 meeting.

Adams cited statistics to support changes last season that included narrowing the goal posts.

According to Adams, there were 250 fewer field goals attempted last season among teams playing Division I college football. The field goal efficiency rate was down 7.5 percent, while the efficiency of the extra point kick dropped four percent. Nelson said Statistics are valuable indicators when rules changes are studied.

"There is good balance right now between the offense and defense. There was no great movement for any changes this year and I don't anticipate any dramatic changes in the game for the next four of five years," Adams said. "The game of college football right now is as popular as it has ever been."

The change in the fumble advancement rule is viewed by Adams as a major revision.

"There were about two fumbles recovered per game last season, so that means now there could be two opportunities each game for the defense to score," he said.

The rule against advancing a backward pass will still be in effect. Adams said fans should understand, for example, that an errant quarterback pitch on an option play can be recovered by the defense but the ball still cannot be advanced.

For those who want more offensive holding calls during a game, Adams said liberalized blocking rules over the past 15 years have made it difficult for officials to determine when an offensive lineman is holding. But teams were called for offensive holding almost three times each game last season.

"Last year, there were 2.78 offensive holding calls per game in Division I college football," Adams said. "Holding was the number one single foul called the most.

"Actually, there were more procedure calls than holding, but when we count the totals all of the procedure penalties are lumped together."

The changes over the years in the offensive line blocking rules were designed to allow teams to increase the pass-run ratio. Adams said rules are changed for a reason and the blocking revisions have served a purpose.

"Offenses last year ran the ball 61 percent of the time and passed 39 percent, so that ratio is stabilizing and that's what we wanted," he said.

Other members of the committee were Gene Carpenter (Millersville University), Bill Collick (Delware State), Fisher Deberry (Air Force Academy), Vincent Dolley (Georgia), William Mantoue (Delaware Valley College), Keith Piper (Dennison University), Robert Reade (Augustana College) and Richard Yoder (West Chester). ■

Other NCAA Actions

Below are some of the other actions taken during the spring which relate to college football. These actions were enacted by the Postseason Subcommittee which met April 26-28 in Scottsdale, Ariz.

- The subcommittee reaffirmed its policy requiring teams to win a minimum of six games against Division I competition to be eligible for a certified bowl game. Last season 48 Division I teams met the requirement for the 36 available bowl inivitations.
- Approval was given for a new postseason game for the 1993-94 season. The Alamo Bowl, tentatively scheduled for Dec. 31, 1992, will take place in the Alamodome which is is a covered arena currently under construction in San Antonio, Texas. The dome is slated to seat 65,000. Final approval requires the bowl must secure a letter verifying its financial stability from a reputable financial institution and sell approximately 20,000 tickets before the subcommittee's spring 1993 meeting.
- Approval was also given to the Las Vegas Silver Bowl as a closed bowl between the champions of the Big West and Mid-American Athletic Conferences. The bowl was also exempted from requirements related to minimum distribution of receipts, letter of credit and stadium size. Also waived was the two-year waiting period because the conferences previously had a closed-bowl arrangement with the California Raisin Bowl.
- In an effort to help bowls deal with economic uncertainty, the committee also recommended a freeze on the minimun distribution of gross receipts paid to schools in bowl. Teams will continue to receive at least $650,000 for participation. An increase to $750,000 is still slated to take place in 1993.

— excerpts from The NCAA News



Johnny Mitchell was a hit.



Corey Williams was a surprise.



Michael Smith was snubbed.

NFL '92 DRAFT

By David Lanier

The top runner, receiver and passer in the Big Eight Conference last year did not attract so much as a sniff in the 1992 National Football League college cattle call known as the draft.

When all was said and done, Kansas' total offense leader, quarterback Paul Watson, Kansas State's rushing champ, Tony Sands, and receiving dynamo Michael Smith were all left to find other means of employment.

But hey guys, cheer up. There's always the National Basketball Association draft.

Maybe the Lakers will take a chance on Sands, Watson or Smith. After all, turnabout is fair play.

And if the Kansas City Chiefs can take Oklahoma State guard (as in dribble it up the floor) Corey Williams, then the NBA can take Nebraska tight end Johnny Mitchell for rebounding help.

Actually, Mitchell is already called for, drafted by the New York Jets in the first round of the NFL draft. The first of 27 Big Eight football players chosen in the football draft.

The Big Eight Offensive Player of the Year, Nebraska's Keithen McCant, did not go until the final round, pick No. 316, to the Cleveland Browns.

Darian Hagan, the career total offense leader at Colorado, was the 242nd pick, heading to San Francisco in the ninth round. The 49ers will use Hagan in the secondary and as a return man.

Okay, so the draft didn't go as Big Eight observers expected. In the end, though, the league received its usual share of attention with 27 players getting the call.

Only four conferences — the Pacific 10 (43), Southeastern (32), Big Ten and Southwest (29 each) — had more players picked than the Big Eight, a conference said to be in transition.

No conference had more basketball stars chosen.

"I watched football all the time," said Williams, supposedly NFL defensive back material, although he hasn't played any football since the ninth grade. "I know it's a totally different game. But if I am allowed to go out there and play, I think I can show Kansas City something the coaches will like."

No, he wasn't surprised by the choice.

"The phone rang, and when my brother answered, it I told him to tell whoever it was that I wasn't home. He said it was someone with the Chiefs. I almost tore his arm off taking the phone."

Chiefs Head Coach Marty Schottenheimer sees Williams simply as a quick athlete — in sneakers or spikes — who with some training could help.

"We were looking for the bump-and-run type of cornerback," Schottenheimer said. "You watch this guy play basketball in the Big Eight, and watch his defensive ability to stay with people, and he is one of those rare athletes with great speed and great quickness.

"But, whether or not he is a football player remains to be seen."

Of course, that is the deal with almost all of the 336 players picked up in the draft. Only the top selections receive significant guarantees.

The Big Eight has had an average



Keithen McCant



Nate Turner



Jon Bostick

of 25 players selected over the last five NFL drafts, with 30 picked last spring to a low of 14 the year before.

But through the first five rounds, it seemed the Big Eight was not going to see much action. Only seven players were selected the first day.

The first Oklahoma Sooner picked, All-American linebacker Joe Bowden, wasn't taken until the fifth round (the 133rd pick) by the Houston Oilers. Eight OU players went the second day.

"I was a little disappointed I didn't go earlier," Bowden said. "The main thing, though, is I'll get a chance to play. And Houston isn't too far from home (Mesquite, Texas), so my mom will be able to see some games."

Mitchell, who supposedly was making a mistake by coming out after only two college seasons, was the 15th choice overall, marking the fifth time in the last six drafts that a Cornhusker was taken in the first round.

The Jets have been groping for a top-flight tight end since cutting Mickey Shuler before the 1990 season.

Nebraska also sent All-Big Eight wide receiver Jon Bostick to Denver in the seventh round and all-league corners Tyrone Legette to New Orleans in the third round. Curtis Cotton went to the Raiders in the seventh round.

In all, seven Cornhuskers were picked. Five or more Nebraska stars have been selected in each of the last five NFL drafts.

Cleveland showed the most interest in shopping in the Big Eight, selecting three players: McCant, Colorado wide receiver Rico Smith (sixth round) and Kansas corner Tim Hill (seventh).

Defensive backs were the most

The addition of the passing game in the Huskers' playbook last season probably helped give the talented tandem of McCant, Turner and Bostick the chance to move to the next level.







Joel Steed (top left) was the first conference defensive standout taken on day one, but was followed by Sooners Joe Bowden (top right) and Stacey Dillard (left) as day two got underway.

popular from the Big Eight, with eight picked. Only one running back, OU's comeback kid, Mike Gaddis, was chosen. He went to Minnesota in the sixth round.

Minnesota could be a sweet break for Gaddis, who came back from a career-threatening injury his junior year to scoot for 1,240 yards last year. The Vikings have stated emphatically that star runner Herschel Walker will not return, leaving the backfield less cluttered. Terry Allen and Roger Craig, a Plan B pickup, are Minnesota's top veteran backs.

"(Gaddis) was our first pick of the second day, and that's significant," said new Minnesota coach Dennis Green. "We had a lot of time to do a lot of investigating and felt good about him and the way he's come back.

"There are a lot of people who feel that Gaddis could be exceptional, but other people get a little skitterish about a guy who's had surgery. That's why he lasted until the sixth."

Gaddis' reported boorish behavior at a workout for the NFL combine before the draft, when he reportedly declined to run for an official 40 time and missed another workout, was overblown, Green said, and not a concern.

Colorado All-American defensive tackle Joel Steed became the second Big Eight player to be drafted when Pittsburgh plucked him in the third round. Last year, the Buffaloes had four defensive linemen enter the NFL.

Legette went to New Orleans in the third round, as the 72nd choice, after the Saints, Raiders and Tampa Bay hammered out a trade. Kansas State defensive back Rogerick Green went to Tampa Bay early in the third round, and Kansas' All-Big Eight offensive tackle Chris Perez got a call from Miami five picks later in the round.

The NFL's sudden burst of infatuation with Kansas football led to an oddity — Kansas' Big Eight schools each sent a player in the draft before OU. Bowden went nine picks after Perez.

Big Eight Breakdown in 1992 NFL College Draft

ROUND	NO.	NAME	POS.	TAKEN BY	SCHOOL
1	15	Johnny Mitchell	TE	N.Y. Jets	Nebraska
3	67	Joel Steed	DT	Pittsburgh	Colorado
3	72	Tyrone Legette	DB	New Orleans	Nebraska
5	118	Rogerick Green	DB	Tampa Bay	Kansas St.
5	124	Chris Perez	OT	Miami	Kansas
5	133	Joe Bowden	LB	Houston	Oklahoma
6	143	Rico Smith	WR	Cleveland	Colorado
6	146	Brian Brauninger	OT	Phoenix	Oklahoma
6	152	Mike Gaddis	RB	Minnesota	Oklahoma
6	153	Stacey Dillard	DT	N.Y. Giants	Oklahoma
6	158	Terry Ray	DB	Atlanta	Oklahoma
6	167	Nate Turner	TE	Buffalo	Nebraska
7	173	Curtis Cotton	DB	L.A. Raiders	Nebraska
7	179	Russ Campbell	TE	Pittsburgh	Kansas St.
7	193	Jon Bostick	WR	Denver	Nebraska
8	197	Jason Belser	DB	Indianapolis	Oklahoma
9	233	Tim Hill	DB	Cleveland	Kansas
9	242	Darian Hagan	QB	San Francisco	Colorado
9	244	Jay Leeuwenburg	C	Kansas City	Colorado
10	254	Elijah Alexander	LB	Tampa Bay	Kansas St.
10	266	Marco Johnson	DT	N.Y. Jets	Missouri
10	269	Corey Mayfield	DE	San Francisco	Oklahoma
11	288	Mike Petko	LB	New England	Nebraska
12	316	Keithen McCant	QB	Cleveland	Nebraska
12	325	Corey Williams	DB	Kansas City	Oklahoma St.
12	326	Brandon Houston	OT	Philadelphia	Oklahoma
12	331	Chris Wilson	LB	Chicago	Oklahoma





With Sands (below) left out, OU's Mike Gaddis (right) became the first and only Big Eight running back taken in the draft.

The second day of the draft went much quicker for Big Eight players. Cleveland started the roll by taking Smith with the third pick of the day (No. 143, sixth round), and Phoenix taking OU offensive tackle Brian Brauninger, a steal according to Phoenix General Manager Larry Wilson.

"Brauninger was one of the players we were hoping would still be there when we came up Monday," Wilson said, "and we're pleased we got him."

Gaddis went midway through the sixth round, and was followed immediately by Oklahoma's Stacey Dillard, a 6-5, 290-pound defensive tackle who has never had the success many predicted.

Sooners Coach Gary Gibbs preferred not to analyze his former players' chances in the NFL, saying his primary concern was with their college careers.

Oklahoma defensive back Terry Ray went late in the sixth round to Atlanta and Nebraska receiver Nate Turner was the final pick of the round, pick No. 167 overall, going to Buffalo. Turner is expected to suit up as a tight end, which should work to his weight advantage. Turner battled keeping his weight down as a wingback, but found it much easier to bulk up during the spring.

Pittsburgh took Kansas State tight end Russ Campbell, who had 1,150 receiving yards in four seasons as a starter, in the seventh round. Indianapolis picked Oklahoma defensive back Jason Belser to open the eighth round. Hill, Hagan and Colorado center Jay Leeuwenburg, to Kansas City, went in the ninth round.

Kansas State, which had not produced a draft pick since 1988, shipped a third player to the NFL when Tampa Bay took linebacker Elijah Alexander. Defensive tackle Mario Johnson, the only Missouri player selected, went to the Jets later in the round. Oklahoma defensive end Corey Mayfield was taken by San Francisco in the 10th.

Iowa State was shut out in the draft.

Nebraska linebacker Mike Petko went to New England in the 11th round. OU offensive tackle Brandon Houston and OU linebacker Chris Wilson went in the 12th and last round. ■



Knowing he wouldn't be drafted as a quarterback, Darian Hagan utilized his speed as a punt return man last season. He finished third in the conference with an average of 11.48 yards a return.

The Next Wave of Stars

Another recruiting season is upon us. You might find it hard to believe, but college coaches have already begun beating the pavement, trying to find the top high school talent in the country.

It's a year long process that never seems to stop. No stone is left unturned when it comes to finding high school football talent.

Film is watched and phone calls are made by college football powers trying to find the talent that will make them a success in years to come. Some prospects are obvious. Some are not. Some of the super stars will not make the grade in the class room, or score high enough on college board tests.

College programs begin the recruiting process with a thousand names on the board, and by the time the high school season gets underway, that list is pared to 200. In some cases, the list may already be cut to 100. The evaluation process continues, but the basic statistical information is already in the computer.

Granted it's early, but we have been able to come up with a potential list of Supers that will star this season on the high school football field. In some ways, this is a shot in the dark. We are just picking the créme de la créme, as we see it, very early in the season.



Mike Mitchell (left) of Phoenix, Ariz., called the nation's best by a recruiter in the Midwest, rushed for 1,995 yards as a junior and 1,471 as a sophomore.

MIDWEST

The biggest prep player in the country just might be **Chris Crudup** (6-10, 295, 5.1) of Hot Springs, Ark.

It's an outstanding year in Arkansas, as center **Don Struebing** (6-3, 245, 5.3) of Springdale is one of the nation's best.

Tim Scarborough (5-8, 185, 4.45) of Little Rock (McClellan) is one of the best scatbacks, after rushing for 1,908 all-purpose yards as a junior.

James Allen (6-foot-1, 198, 4.5) of Wynnewood, Okla., is one of the top five running backs in the country. He will be labeled a top 30 prospect nationally after rushing for 2,672 yards and 43 touchdowns a year ago. Every school in the country will try to recruit Mr. Allen.

"James is the best running back I have ever coached," says Jim Holleway, Allen's coach at Wynnewood. "He has great strength, speed and vision. He can either run away from you or through you. There just isn't much he can't do on a football field."

While Allen will draw attention from coast to coast, six other Oklahomans will draw some national attention.

Jayson Patterson (6-4, 190, 4.6) is a defensive end from Jenks with excellent speed and quickness; **Anthony Eubanks** (6-2, 170, 4.5) of Spiro and **Tosh Johnson** (6-3, 185, 4.6) of Ardmore may be the best all-around athletes who can qualify. **Jerome Burroughs** (6-0, 200, 4.5) of Muskogee is a great fullback or linebacker prospect. The top offensive line prospects are **Robert Ingram** (6-5, 270) of Ada and **Barry Giles** (6-4, 260) of Healdton.

Tyrell Peters (6-0, 195, 4.6) of Norman is a running back/linebacker who will draw some national attention, along with Midwest City punter **Tim Daugherty** (6-1, 190, 4.6), who is also a fairly good tight end.

Nebraska also has some outstanding talent headed by offensive guard **Eric Anderson** (6-4, 280, 5.1) of Lincoln (Southeast).

In Colorado, running back **Emmett Mosley** (5-9, 175, 4.4) of Denver Mullen is a versatile back who excels when running or receiving the ball. Mosley went over 1,000 yards in both categories a year ago. **Scott Bentley** (6-1, 170) of Overland may be the best placekicker in the country. Bentley holds the Colorado record for career field goals, including a kick of 58 yards.

A great linebacker prospect heads

the list of Missouri supers. **Ron Janes** (6-3, 227, 4.5) of Shelbina (South Shelby) has turned some heads with a 405 bench and a 650 squat. Janes also doubles as a powerful tailback who runs through tacklers.

Kansas City (Rockhurst) again sports one of the nation's best in defensive back **Tony Blevins** (6-1, 170, 4.6). **Nat Minnis** (5-10, 175, 4.7) of Blue Springs has over 3,000 career passing yards and 43 scores, but has enough athletic ability to be recruited as an athlete. Wide receiver **Leroy Pruitt** (5-9, 160, 4.4) teams with Minnis and has managed 97 career receptions. **Travis Biebel** (6-5, 258, 5.0) is an offensive tackle that provides protection and makes a passing game go. **Chris Brown** (6-4, 255, 5.0) of Kansas City (Hogan) is an outstanding physical talent who excels in run blocking.

In Kansas, linebacker **Lyron Cobbins** (6-2, 225, 4.75) of Wyandotte is a tough, physical player with a 300 bench and great lateral movement. Running back **Tyrone Phillips** (5-9, 175, 4.5) of Wichita Northwest has been hot and cold, but when he is on, add another name to a great list of running backs this year.

NORTH

Chicago has a different look this year as quarterback **Jeff Hecklinski** (6-4, 200, 4.85) of Palatine is drawing the major attention. In most years, down linemen and linebackers are the main draw in this area. However, this season, skill position players will steal some of the attention. Hecklinski has thrown for 3, 484 yards and 31 touchdowns during his first two seasons despite missing three games due to injury. A pure drop back passer who can throw the ball through a wall, Hecklinski exhibits some accuracy, completing 54 percent of his passes.

Larry Guess (6-3, 180, 4.6) of Hinsdale (South Darien) is an athlete who was voted as the offensive and defensive MVP at the Illinois summer camp before his junior year. Despite playing mostly at defensive back his junior year, Guess is being recruited primarily as a wide receiver. **Larry Farmer** (6-1, 210, 4.5) of Bolinbrook



Bertrand Berry of Humble, Texas is the prototype college tailback after rushing for 1,000 yards a year ago.

is a Top 10 running back nationally after being named all-conference, with a 1,487 yard season performance and 19 scores.

Of course, you can't leave Illinois without talking about down linemen. **Rick Robey** (6-4, 250, 4.8) is a defensive tackle out of Rockford (Auburn) who rival coaches are saying is the best they have seen in years. **Jon Blackman** (6-6, 235, 4.8) of Yorkville is another defensive tackle that can name his own ticket. **Chip McPheeters** (6-3 1/2, 5.0) of Waubonsie Valley (Aurora) is one of the top center prospects in the country, and **Aaron Thomas** (6-4, 218, 4.6) of Immaculate Conception (Elmhurst) will be this year's big-time linebacker out of this area.

TEXAS

Texas is loaded with running backs this season.

You could argue long and hard as to who is the best, but **Dion Marion** (6-1, 185, 4.45) of Killeen will draw many votes as the best running back in the state. Despite missing five games in '91, Marion rushed for 1,200 yards and is listed by many as the state's best player. **Michael Martin** (6-2, 190, 4.5) of Dallas (W.T. White) rushed for 1,702 yards as a junior.

Houston (Yates) will sport two of the top players in Texas in running back **Jerald Moore** (5-10, 210, 4.4) and linebacker **Oscar Smallwood** (6-1, 240, 4.7). Both were All-District as sophomores and juniors.

Bertrand Berry (6-4, 214, 4.5) of Humble is a tremendous athlete who excels on the prep level at both tailback and linebacker. A 1,000-yard rusher a year ago, Berry seems to be the prototype college running back.

In Dallas, Kimball High's **Allen Wilborn** (6-1, 225, 4.6) is regarded as the top pure linebacker prospect in the state.

Carter High has its usual number of great prospects. The best appears to be a pair of bookend defensive tackles in **William Carr** (6-2, 265, 4.8) and **Brandon Ashley** (6-4, 255, 4.76). On the other side of the ball, Carter sports **Damien Bethell** (6-3, 245, 4.9), an offensive guard/tackle prospect who will lead a potent Carter attack.

Chris Abron (5-9, 160, 4.4) of Richardson is a scatback who rushed for 1,994 yards and 26 touchdowns a year ago. Abron will battle Berkner High star running back **Duane Lawson** (6-1, 200, 4.5) for headlines in Richardson this season. Lawson turned in a 1,420 yard total as a junior and seems to have all the tools of a great one. The top receiver in Texas just might be Tyler's (Lee) **Fred Coleman** (6-1, 165, 4.5), who caught 59 passes for 1,200 yards and 11 scores in 1991.

Frank Middleton (6-4, 275, 5.0) of Beaumont (West Brook) and **Trey Hyde** (6-6, 290, 5.1) of Houston (Westfield) head a list of big, mobile offensive linemen in Texas.

FLORIDA

When you're looking South, you must start in Florida.

The Sunshine State has become one of the big three in high school football recruiting, along with Texas and California. You can always find a top five quarterback in Florida and this year's phenom is **Thad Busby** (6-3 1/2, 200, 4.8) of Pace. Busby was good enough to earn MVP honors at a col-

lege summer camp as a sophomore and passed for 1,900 and 10 touchdowns as a junior. Busby also managed to rush for 450 yards and shows all the qualities necessary to be a big-time college signal caller.

Many claim tight end **Rodney Williams** (6-6, 240, 4.6) of Palatka will be the best at his position this season. A three-year starter, Williams has great hands and blocks like a tackle. **Nigea Carter** (6-2, 180, 4.4) of Coconut Creek is a top five national receiver after catching 26 passes at 22.5 yards a pop and seven scores as a junior. Another great receiver prospect is **Marquis Johnson** (6-5, 205, 4.6) of Havana (Northside), who is in line to rewrite all the prep receiving records in Florida. After two seasons, Johnson has over 100 catches for 38 touchdowns (22 coming as a junior to set a new state record for receiving touchdowns in a season and 1,379 receiving yards).

Keith Wilkerson (5-10, 175, 4.4) of Ft. Lauderdale (Aquinas) is one of the top utility men in the country.

Kerlin Blaise (6-5, 295) of Orlando (Evans) and **Elijah Brown** (6-4, 275) of Jacksonville (University Christian) lead an outstanding crop of offensive linemen. **Freeman Brown** (6-7, 300) of Carol City is another that will be recruited by the world.

Those guys would love to block for a pair of superstar running backs in Florida. **Tyrone Baker** (5-10, 175, 4.35) of Gainesville (Buchholz) rushed for 2,220 yards in 13 games, and **Clarence Williams** (6-3, 235, 4.6) of Crescent City is affectionately called "Pooh-Bear," after mowing down defenders for 1,773 yards and 24 scores a year ago. They lead a contention of some 30 running backs who will receive Division I offers this year out of Florida.

On defense, **Reggie Byrd** (6-3 1/2, 210, 4.6) of Panama City (Rutherford) is a great outside linebacker prospect. **Julian Pittman** (6-5, 245, 4.65) of Niceville is another at that spot the nation is drooling over. **Keith Drayton** (6-5, 285) of Fort Myers was an All-State noseguard as a junior and this year will vie for national honors.

However, it's in the secondary where the state of Florida really shines. You won't find better corners than **Jammie German** (5-11 1/2, 175, 4.5) of Fort Myers and **James Colzie** (5-11 160, 4.4) of South Miami. Both double as wide receivers and average over 25 yards a catch. They head a group of some 30 defensive backs who will go Division I this season.

SOUTH

Georgia is loaded with skill position players. One of the nation's finest quarterbacks is **Mike Bobo** (6-2, 192, 5.0) of Thomasville, who broke Shawn Jones' (Georgia Tech) single-season passing record with 2,161 yards as a junior. **Amel Jackson** (5-7, 175, 4.5) of Marietta heads a great group of running backs in the state. Jackson rushed for 1,780 yards and 38 touchdowns.

T. J. Jackson of Atlanta (Lakeside) bettered those totals with 2,280 yards and 28 scores on the co-Championship Class AAA team. Eight other running backs are considered supers by college scouts along with wide receivers **Marie Robinson** (6-0, 160, 4.4) and **Javis Mack** (5-11, 170, 4.4) who team at Athens (Cedar Shoals) to form the best pair of receivers on one team in the country.

Mercedes Hamilton (6-4, 275, 4.9) of Waynesboro Burke County, Ga., is a Top 5 defensive tackle who managed 15 sacks a year ago. **Kevin Johnson** (6-2, 215, 4.6) of Athens (Clarke Central) and **Mark Jenkins** (6-3, 220, 4.6) of Atlanta (Lakeside) are in the same category as linebackers.

Other top prospects in the South include quarterback **Brian Davis** (6-3, 210, 4.7) of Murfreesboro (Riverdale), Tenn.; **Reggie Upshaw** (6-3, 235, 4.7) of Chattanooga (Red Bank), Tenn. is one of the top defensive tackles in the country.

South Carolina continues to brag about **Nick Dupont** (6-4, 260, 5.0). Dupont is a down lineman that goes both ways out of Hilton Head. Wide receiver **Harvey Middleton** (6-1, 175, 4.4) of Moncirs Corner (Macedonia) had over 1,000 yards receiving and 10 scores a year ago.

Prichard Vigor, Ala., sports a pair of bookend offensive tackles that are All-American caliber. **Willie Anderson** (6-6, 310, 5.1) and **Maurice Morissette** (6-4, 280, 5.0) can both choose any school in the country, and **Chris Lee** (6-4, 250, 4.9) of Anniston is a top five center nationally.

Louisiana always has a down lineman or two that draw national attention. This year is no exception with defensive tackle **Billy Beron** (6-4, 260, 4.8) of Metairie (Rummel), who recorded 10 -sacks and offensive tackle **Marcus Vidrine** (6-6, 255, 4.98) of Sulpher, who was an All-Stater a year ago.

You can always count on a great running back in Louisiana and **Jermaine Sharpe** (5-10, 185, 4.4) of Monroe (Ouachita Christian) is a four-year starter who exploded last season for 2,092 yards and 33 touchdowns.

Mississippi has a big timer in **Andrew Autry** (6-2, 205, 4.5) of Taylorsville, who goes both ways at running back and linebacker.

EAST

Scouts are raving about the talents of **Chris Kurpeikis** (6-6, 280, 5.0) of Pittsburgh (Central Catholic), Penn. This tackle plays on both sides of the ball and dominates. **Rob Swett** (6-3, 230, 4.6) of Doylestown (C.B. West), Penn., doubles as a tight end/linebacker and is another that can punch his own ticket. Quarterback **Ron Powlus** (6-4, 205, 4.8) of Bertwick, Penn., fits into the elite category after throwing for 4,400 yards thus far in his career.

Elizabeth High in New Jersey has three of the best in the country for 1992. **Dulayne Morgan** (6-5, 220, 4.75) is an imposing outside linebacker who came up with 24 sacks a year ago, **Lashan Mitchell** (6-4, 285, 5.0) anchors the defensive line, and **Shane Hart** (5-10, 155, 4.3) provides the excitement as a receiver/kick returner.

Nelson Bonilla (6-0, 190, 4.4) of South River, N.J., has the label of best running back in Jersey after rushing for 1,535 yards and 19 scores. If you want size, make a trip up to Trenton and check out **Mike Craig** (6-5, 330, 5.2), considered the best out of that area in a long time.

In Ohio, **Marc Edwards** (6-2, 210, 4.65) of Norwood is considered the top fullback prospect in the country. Edwards is a big, powerful runner who has assaulted defenses for 4,280 career yards rushing, 377 receiving and 46 touchdowns. **Devon Battle** (6-3, 225, 4.6) of Dunbar is ranked as one of the nation's more active linebackers after coming up with 115 tackles a year ago. **Mike Vrabel** (6-4, 240, 4.6) of Stow Walsh (Jesuit) is another great athlete who can excel at tight end and linebacker.

Michigan adds the name of **Charles Talley** (6-0, 200, 4.4) of Pontiac

(Northern) to the state's great running back stash.

Talley rushed for 1,390 yards and 20 scores a year ago while also doubling as a defensive back. **Randy Kinder** (6-1, 185, 4.39) of East Lansing is another outstanding running back who rushed for 2,015 yards and 27 touchdowns. **Shabaka Majid** (6-5, 140, 4.8) of Detroit (Southwestern) heads a strong contingent of defensive tackles out of Michigan.

Many feel Virginia has the best running back in the country in **Antonio Procise** (5-11, 200, 4.5) of Sussey (Central) after he ripped defenses for 2,300 yards and 32 scores, while **Brian Ford** (6-4, 185) of Indianapolis (Cathedral), Ind., is a Top 5 kicker nationally after averaging 43.4 yards per kick a year ago.



James Allen of Wynnewood, Okla., is one of the top five running backs in the country with over 3,000 yards rushing to his credit.

WEST

Out West, scouts are raving about the talents of running back **Mike Mitchell** (6-1, 205, 4.5) of Phoenix (Brophy). Called the nation's best by a recruiter in the Midwest, Mitchell rushed for 1,995 yards as a junior and 1,471 as a sophomore.

"Mike is the best to come out of Arizona in a long time," says Brophy Head Coach Tim Sanford. "He's got so much talent that all his dreams are a possibility."

In California, you will find some 300 Division I prospects, and the top 100 will be recruited nationally.

Of course, quarterbacks draw attention in California, and two of the best are **Brady Batten** (6-4, 205, 4.8) of Bakersfield East and **Stais Boseman** (6-3, 185, 4.6) of Inglewood Morningside. Boseman is the better all-around athlete of the two, with Batten possessing the stronger arm.

Eliel Swinton (5-10, 185, 4.4) of Van Nuys (Montclair Prep) is the best small back on the West Coast averaging 197 yards rushing per game. **Anthony Gray** (6-1, 180, 4.45) of Hayward rushed for 1,300 yards at 7.0 yards per carry.

Germaine Gray (6-5, 240, 4.8) of Rialto Eisenhower is regarded as a Top 5 defensive tackle nationally.



Jeff Hecklinski of Palatine, Ill., is drawing major attention. He has thrown for 3,484 yards and 31 touchdowns during his first two seasons.

Gray managed 22 sacks as a junior, has a 350 bench and is still growing. **Travis Kirschke** (6-4, 235, 4.8) of Anaheim Esperanza is rated right up there with Gray. **Shawn Stuart** (6-4, 270, 5.0) of Saugus is a power driving offensive lineman who is rated one/two with **Andy Meyers** (6-6, 260, 5.0) of Fontanta.

Defensive backs are always plentiful in California and **Brandon Moore** (6-1, 185, 4.4) of Wilmington Banning heads the list with **Bryant Westbrook** (6-1, 185, 4.3) of Oceanside (El Camino) who won the state 100-meter dash as a sophomore.

So there it is, a tease to the coming recruiting season. Obviously, this list was put together very early and will change considerably during the season. But, it gives us a start before we begin covering recruiting on a weekly basis.

One thing is evident, it's a great year for running backs. It seems that every state has a great one.■

1992
Major College Schedules

ACC

Clemson
S. 5 Ball State
S. 12 Florida State
S. 26 @Georgia Tech
O. 3 UT-Chattanooga
O. 10 @Virginia
O. 17 Duke
O. 24 @NC State
O. 31 @Wake Forest
N. 7 North Carolina
N. 14 @Maryland
N. 21 South Carolina

Duke
S. 5 @Florida State
S. 12 @Vanderbilt
S. 19 Rice
S. 26 Virginia
O. 10 East Carolina
O. 17 @Clemson
O. 24 Maryland
O. 31 @Georgia Tech
N. 7 Wake Forest
N. 14 @NC State
N. 21 North Carolina

Florida State
S. 5 Duke
S. 12 @Clemson
S. 19 @NC State
S. 26 Wake Forest
O. 3 @Miami
O. 10 North Carolina
O. 17 @Georgia Tech
O. 31 @Virginia
N. 7 Maryland
N. 14 Tulane
N. 28 Florida

Georgia Tech
S. 12 W. Carolina
S. 19 @Virginia
S. 26 Clemson
O. 3 NC State
O. 10 @Maryland
O. 17 Florida State
O. 24 @N. Carolina
O. 31 Duke
N. 7 Baylor
N. 14 Wake Forest
N. 28 @Georgia

Maryland
S. 5 @Virginia
S. 12 NC State
S. 19 @West Virginia
S. 26 @Penn State
O. 3 Pittsburgh
O. 10 Georgia Tech
O. 17 Wake Forest
O. 24 @Duke
O. 31 North Carolina
N. 7 @Florida State
N. 14 Clemson

North Carolina
S. 5 @Wake Forest
S. 12 Furman
S. 19 Army
S. 26 NC State
O. 3 Navy
O. 10 @Florida State
O. 17 Virginia
O. 24 Georgia Tech
O. 31 @Maryland
N. 7 @Clemson
N. 21 @Duke

NC State
S. 5 Appalachian St.
S. 12 @Maryland
S. 19 Florida State
S. 26 @N. Carolina
O. 3 @Georgia Tech
O. 10 Texas Tech
O. 17 @Virginia Tech
O. 24 Clemson
N. 7 @Virginia
N. 14 Duke
N. 21 Wake Forest

Virginia
S. 5 Maryland
S. 12 @Navy
S. 19 Georgia Tech
S. 26 @Duke
O. 3 @Wake Forest
O. 10 Clemson
O. 17 @N. Carolina
O. 24 William & Mary
O. 31 Florida State
N. 7 NC State
N. 21 @Virginia Tech

Wake Forest
S. 5 North Carolina
S. 19 Appalachian St.
S. 26 @Florida State
O. 3 Virginia
O. 10 @Vanderbilt
O. 17 @Maryland
O. 24 Army
O. 31 Clemson
N. 7 @Duke
N. 14 @Georgia Tech
N. 21 @NC State

BIG EAST

Boston College
S. 5 Rutgers
S. 12 Northwestern
S. 19 Navy
S. 26 Michigan St.
O. 3 @West Va.
O. 17 @Penn. St.
O. 24 @Tulane
O. 31 Temple
N. 7 @Notre Dame
N. 14 Syracuse
N. 21 @Army

Miami
S. 5 @Iowa
S. 19 Fla. A&M
S. 26 Arizona
O.3 Florida St.
O. 10 @Penn St.
O. 17 TCU
O. 24 @Va. Tech
O. 31 West Va.
N. 14 Temple
N. 21 @Syracuse
N. 28 @San Diego St.

Pittsburgh
S. 5 Kentucky
S. 12 West Va.
S. 17 @Rutgers
S. 26 Minnesota
O. 3 @Maryland
O. 10 Notre Dame
O. 17 @Temple
O. 24 E. Carolina
O. 31 @Syracuse
N. 14 Louisville
N. 21 @Penn St.
D. 5 @Hawaii

Rutgers
S. 5 @Boston College
S. 12 Colgate
S. 17 Pittsburgh
S. 26 @Navy
O. 3 Penn St.
O. 10 @Syracuse
O. 17 Army
O. 31 Virginia Tech
N. 7 @Cincinnati
N. 14 West Va.
N. 21 @Temple

Syracuse
S. 5 @East Carolina
S. 12 Texas
S. 19 Ohio State
O. 3 @Louisville
O. 10 Rutgers
O. 17 @West Virginia
O. 24 @Temple
O. 31 Pittsburgh
N. 7 Virgina Tech
N. 14 @BC
N. 21 Miami

Temple
S. 5 Boston Univ.
S. 12 @Penn State
S. 19 Va. Tech
S. 26 @Kansas St.
O. 3 @Wash. State
O. 17 Pittsburgh
O. 24 Syracuse
O. 31 @Boston College
N. 7 @Akron
N. 14 @Miami
N. 21 Rutgers

Virginia Tech
S. 5 Jas Madison
S. 12 @ECU
S. 19 @Temple
S. 26 W. Virginia
O. 10 @Louisville
O. 17 NC State
O. 24 Miami
O. 31 @Rutgers
N. 7 @ Syracuse
N. 14 So. Miss.
N. 21 Virginia

W. Virginia
S. 5 Miami
S. 12 @Pittsburgh
S. 19 Maryland
S. 26 @Virginia Tech
O. 3 Boston College
O. 17 Syracuse
O. 24 Penn State
O. 31 @Miami
N. 7 ECU
N. 14 @Rutgers
N. 21 La. Tech

BIG WEST

Cal State
S. 5 Cal Fullerton
S. 12 @UCLA
S. 19 @Georgia
S. 26 Sacramento St.
O. 3 Nevada-Reno
O. 10 @San Jose St.
O. 17 @SW Louisiana
O. 31 Utah State
N. 7 @Pacific
N. 14 @N. M. State
N. 28 @UNLV

New Mexico St.
S. 5 Weber St.
S. 12 N. Mexico
S. 19 @UTEP
S. 26 @Utah State
O. 3 @Kansas St.
O. 10 UNLV
O. 17 Pacific
O. 24 Nevada-Reno
O. 31 @Arizona
N. 14 Cal Fullerton
N. 21 @San Jose St.

Nevada-Reno
S. 5 @Wyoming
S. 12 Pacific
S. 19 McNeese St.
S. 26 @Tulane
O. 3 Cal Fullerton
O. 17 @UNLV
O. 24 N. Mexico St.
O. 31 Weber St.
N. 7 @San Jose St.
N. 14 Utah State
N. 21 Texas Southern

Pacific
S. 5 Fresno St.
S. 12 @Nevada-Reno
S. 19 @Boise
O. 3 UNLV
O. 10 @Arizona St.
O. 17 @N. Mexico St.
O. 24 @Washington
N. 7 Cal Fullerton
N. 14 San Jose St.
N. 21 Utah State

San Jose State
S. 5 @Cal Fullerton
S. 12 @Minnesota
S. 19 SW Louisiana
S. 26 @Stanford
O. 3 @Wyoming
O. 10 Cal Fullerton
O. 24 Utah State
O. 31 @UNLV
N. 7 Uevada-Reno
N. 14 @Pacific
N. 21 N. Mexico St.

UNLV
S. 12 UTEP
S. 19 N. Arizona
S. 26 @Oregon
O. 3 @Pacific
O. 10 @N. Mexico St.
O. 17 Nevada-Reno
O. 24 @Hawaii
O. 31 San Jose St.
N. 7 @Utah State
N. 21 Montana St.
N. 28 Cal Fullerton

Utah State
S. 5 @Arizona
S. 12 Utah
S. 19 @Baylor
S. 26 N. Mexico St.
O. 2 @BYU
O. 17 Kansas St.
O. 24 San Jose St.
O. 31 @Cal Fullerton
N. 7 UNLV
N. 14 @Nevada-Reno
N. 21 @Pacific

BIG TEN

Illinois
S. 5 Northern Illinois
S. 12 Missouri
S. 19 @Houston
O. 3 @Minnesota
O. 10 @Ohio State
O. 17 Iowa
O. 24 N'Western
O. 31 @Wisconsin
N. 7 Purdue
N. 14 @Michigan
N. 21 Michigan State

Indiana
S. 12 Miami
S. 19 @Kentucky
S. 26 Missouri
O. 3 @Michigan St.
O. 10 @N'Western
O. 17 Michigan
O. 24 Wisconsin
O. 31 @Minnesota
N. 7 Iowa
N. 14 Ohio State
N. 21 @Purdue

Iowa
A. 29 N.C. State
S. 5 Miami
S. 12 Iowa State
S. 26 @Colorado
O. 3 @Michigan
O. 10 Wisconsin
O. 17 @Illinios
O. 24 Purdue
O. 31 Ohio State
N. 7 @Indiana
N. 14 N'Western
N. 21 @Minnesota

Michigan
S. 12 @Notre Dame
S. 19 Oklahoma State
S. 26 Houston
O. 3 Iowa
O. 10 Mich. State
O. 17 @Indiana
O. 24 Minnesota
O. 31 @Purdue
N. 7 @N'Western
N. 14 Illinois
N. 21 @Ohio State

Michigan State
S. 12 C. Michigan
S. 19 Notre Dame
S. 26 @Boston Coll.
O. 3 Indiana
O. 10 @Michigan
O. 17 @Minnesota
O. 24 Ohio State
O. 31 @N'Western
N. 7 Wisconsin
N. 14 Purdue
N. 21 @Illinois

Minnesota
S. 12 San Jose St.
S. 19 Colorado
S. 26 @Pittsburgh
O. 3 Illinois
O. 10 @Purdue
O. 17 Mich. State
O. 24 @Michigan
O. 31 Indiana
N. 7 @Ohio State
N. 14 @Wisconsin
N. 21 Iowa

N'Western
S. 5 Notre Dame
S. 12 @Boston Coll.
S. 19 @Stanford
O. 3 @Purdue
O. 10 Indiana
O. 17 @Ohio State
O. 24 @Illinois
O. 31 Michigan State
N. 7 Michigan
N. 14 @Iowa
N. 21 Wisconsin

Ohio State
S. 5 Louisville
S. 12 Bowling Green
S. 19 @Syracuse
O. 3 @Wisconsin
O. 10 Illinois
O. 17 N'Western
O. 24 @Michigan St.
O. 31 @Iowa
N. 7 Minnesota
N. 14 @Indiana
N. 21 Michigan

Penn State
S. 5 @Cincinnati
S. 12 Temple
S. 19 E. Michigan
S. 26 Maryland
O. 3 @Rutgers
O. 10 Miami
O. 17 Boston College
O. 24 @W. Virginia
O. 31 @BYU
N. 14 @Notre Dame
N. 21 Pittsburgh

Purdue
S. 12 California
S. 19 Toledo
S. 26 @Notre Dame
O. 3 N'Western
O. 10 Minnesota
O. 17 @Wisconsin
O. 24 @Iowa
O. 31 Michigan
N. 7 @Illinois
N. 14 @Mich. State
N. 21 Indiana

Wisconsin
S. 12 @Washington
S. 19 Bowling Green
S. 26 Northern Illinois
O.3 Ohio State

O. 10 @Iowa
O. 17 Purdue
O. 24 @Indiana
O. 31 Illinois
N. 7 @Michigan St.
N. 14 Minnesota
N. 21 @N'Western

PAC 10

Arizona

S. 5 Utah State
S. 12 Washington St.
S. 19 @Oregon State
S. 26 @Miami
O. 3 UCLA
O. 17 @Stanford
O. 24 @California
O. 31 New Mexico St.
N. 7 Washington
N. 14 @USC
N. 21 Arizona State

Arizona State

S. 5 Washington
S. 19 Louisville
S. 26 @Nebraska
O. 3 @Oregon
O. 10 Pacific
O. 17 Oregon State
O. 24 @UCLA
O. 31 USC
N. 7 @Wash. St.
N. 14 California
N. 21 @Arizona

California

S. 5 San Jose State
S. 12 @Purdue
S. 24 @Kansas
O. 3 Oregon State
O. 10 @Washington
O. 17 @USC
O. 24 Arizona
O. 31 UCLA
N. 7 @Oregon
N. 14 @Arizona State
N. 21 Stanford

Oregon

S. 5 Hawaii
S. 12 @Stanford
S. 19 Texas Tech
S. 26 UNLV
O. 3 Arizona State
O. 10 @USC
O. 17 Washington
O. 31 @Wash. St.
N. 7 California
N. 14 UCLA
N. 21 @Oregon State

Oregon State

S. 5 Kansas
S. 12 Fresno State
S. 19 Arizona
S. 26 @Utah
O. 3 @California
O. 10 Wash. State
O. 17 @Arizona State
O. 24 Stanford
N. 7 @UCLA
N. 14 @Washington
N. 21 Oregon

Stanford

A. 26 vs. Texas A&M
S. 12 Oregon
S. 19 Northwestern
S. 26 San Jose State
O. 3 @Notre Dame
O. 10 @UCLA
O. 17 Arizona
O. 24 @Oregon State
O. 31 @Washington
N. 7 USC
N. 14 Wash. St.
N. 21 @California

UCLA

S. 12 Cal State
S. 19 @BYU
S. 26 San Diego St.
O. 3 @Arizona
O. 10 Stanford
O. 17 @Wash. St.
O. 24 Arizona State
O. 31 @California
N. 7 Oregon State
N. 14 @Oregon
N. 21 USC

USC

S. 5 @San Diego St.
S. 19 @Oklahoma
O. 3 @Washington
O. 10 Oregon
O. 17 California
O. 24 Wash. St.
O. 31 @Arizona State
N. 7 @Stanford
N. 14 Arizona
N. 21 @UCLA
N. 28 Notre Dame

Washington

S. 5 @Arizona State
S. 12 Wisconsin
S. 19 Nebraska
O. 3 USC
O. 10 California
O. 17 @Oregon
O. 24 Pacific
O. 31 Stanford
N. 7 @Arizona
N. 14 Oregon State
N. 21 @Wash. St.

Washington St.

S. 5 Montana
S. 12 @Arizona
S. 26 @Fresno St.
O. 3 Temple
O. 10 @Oregon State
O. 17 UCLA
O. 24 @USC
O. 31 Oregon
N. 7 Arizona State
N. 14 @Stanford
N. 21 Washington

SEC

Alabama

S. 5 @Vanderbilt
S. 12 S. Mississippi
S. 19 @Arkansas
S. 26 Louisiana Tech
O. 3 @S. Carolina
O. 10 @Tulane
O. 17 @Tennessee
O. 24 @Ole Miss
N. 7 @LSU
N. 14 @Mississippi St.
N. 28 Auburn

Arkansas

S. 5 The Citadel
S. 12 @S. Carolina
S. 19 vs. Alabama
S. 26 @Memphis St.
O. 3 Georgia
O. 10 @Tennessee
O. 17 vs. Ole Miss
O. 31 @Auburn
N. 7 @Mississippi St.
N. 21 vs. SMU
N. 28 LSU

Auburn

S. 5 @Ole Miss
S. 12 Sanford
S. 19 LSU
S. 26 S. Mississippi
O. 3 Vanderbilt
O. 10 @Mississippi St.
O. 17 @Florida
O. 24 SW Louisiana
O. 31 Arkansas
N. 14 Georgia
N. 28 @Alabama

Florida

S. 12 Kentucky
S. 19 @Tennessee
O. 1 @Mississippi St.
O. 10 LSU
O. 17 Auburn
O. 24 Louisville
O. 31 @Georgia
N. 7 S. Mississippi
N. 14 S. Carolina
N. 21 @Vanderbilt
N. 28 @Florida State

Georgia

S. 5 @S. Carolina
S. 12 Tennessee
S. 19 Cal State
S. 26 Ole Miss
O. 3 @Arkansas
O. 10 Georgia S.
O. 17 Vanderbilt
O. 24 @Kentucky
O. 31 @Florida
N. 14 @Auburn
N. 28 Georgia Tech

Kentucky

S. 5 C. Michigan
S. 12 @Florida
S. 19 Indiana
S. 26 S. Carolina
O. 3 @Ole Miss
O. 17 @LSU
O. 24 Georgia
O. 31 Mississippi St.
N. 7 Vanderbilt
N. 14 @Cincinnati
N. 21 @Tennessee

LSU

S. 5 Texas A&M
S. 12 Mississippi St.
S. 19 @Auburn
S. 26 Colorado State
O. 3 Tennessee
O. 10 @Florida
O. 17 Kentucky
O. 31 @Ole Miss
N. 7 Alabama
N. 21 Tulane
N. 28 @Arkansas

Ole Miss

S. 5 Auburn
S. 12 Tulane
S. 19 @Vanderbilt
S. 26 @Georgia
O. 3 Kentucky
O. 17 @Arkansas
O. 24 @Alabama
O. 31 @LSU
N. 7 Memphis State
N. 14 Louisiana Tech
N. 28 Mississippi St.

Mississippi St.

S. 5 @Texas
S. 12 @LSU
S. 19 @Memphis St.
O. 1 Florida
O. 10 Auburn
O. 17 @S. Carolina
O. 24 Arkansas State
O. 31 @Kentucky
N. 7 Arkansas
N. 14 Alabama
N. 28 @Ole Miss

South Carolina

S. 5 Georgia
S. 12 Arkansas
S. 19 East Carolina
S. 26 @Kentucky
O. 3 @Alabama
O. 17 Mississippi St.
O. 24 @Vanderbilt
O. 31 Tennessee
N. 7 Louisiana Tech
N. 14 @Florida
N. 21 @Clemson

Tennessee

S. 5 SW Louisiana
S. 12 @Georgia
S. 19 Florida
S. 26 Cincinnati
O. 3 @LSU
O. 10 Arkansas
O. 17 Alabama
O. 31 @S. Carolina
N. 14 @Memphis St.
N. 21 Kentucky
N. 28 @Vanderbilt

Vanderbilt

S. 5 @Alabama
S. 12 Duke
S. 19 Ole Miss
O. 3 @Auburn
O. 10 Wake Forest
O. 17 @Georgia
O. 24 S. Carolina
N. 7 @Kentucky
N. 14 Navy
N. 21 Florida
N. 28 @Tennessee

SWC

Baylor

S. 5 Louisiana Tech
S. 12 Colorado
S. 19 Utah State
S. 26 @Texas Tech
O. 3 SMU
O. 10 @TCU
O. 17 Houston
O. 24 @Texas A&M
N. 7 Georgia Tech
N. 14 @Rice
N. 21 Texas

Houston

S. 5 @Tulsa
S. 19 Illinois
S. 26 @Michigan
O. 3 S. Louisiana
O. 17 @Baylor
O. 24 @Texas
O. 31 TCU
N. 7 @SMU
N. 12 Texas A&M
N. 21 @Texas Tech
N. 28 Rice

Rice

S. 5 @Air Force
S. 19 @Duke
S. 26 Sam Houst. St.
O. 3 Texas
O. 10 SMU
O. 17 @Texas A&M
O. 24 @TCU
N. 7 Texas Tech
N. 14 Baylor
N. 21 Navy
N. 28 @Houston

SMU

S. 5 Tulane
S. 12 North Texas
S. 19 @New Mexico
S. 26 TCU
O. 3 @Baylor
O. 10 @Rice
O. 24 @Texas Tech
O. 31 Texas A&M
N. 7 Houston
N. 14 @Texas
N. 21 @Arkansas

Texas

S. 5 Mississippi St.
S. 12 @Syracuse
S. 26 North Texas
O. 3 @Rice
O. 10 Oklahoma
O. 24 Houston
O. 31 @Texas Tech
N. 7 @TCU
N. 14 SMU
N. 21 @Baylor
N. 26 Texas A&M

Texas A&M

A. 26 vs. Stanford
S. 5 @LSU
S. 12 Tulsa
S. 19 @Missouri
O. 3 Texas Tech
O. 17 Rice
O. 24 Baylor
O. 31 @SMU
N. 7 Louisville
N. 12 @Houston
N. 21 TCU
N. 26 @Texas

TCU

S. 5 @New Mexico
S. 12 W. Michigan
S. 26 @SMU
O. 3 Oklahoma St.
O. 10 Baylor
O. 17 @Miami
O. 24 Rice
O. 31 @Houston
N. 7 Texas
N. 14 Texas Tech
N. 21 @Texas A&M

Texas Tech

S. 3 Oklahoma
S. 12 Wyoming
S. 19 @Oregon
S. 26 Baylor
O. 3 @Texas A&M
O. 10 @N.C. State
O. 24 SMU
O. 31 Texas
N. 7 @Rice
N. 14 @TCU
N. 21 Houston

WAC

Air Force

S. 5 Rice
S. 12 Hawaii
S. 19 @Wyoming
S. 26 New Mexico
O. 3 @UTEP
O. 10 Navy
O. 17 Colorado St.
O. 24 @San Diego St.
O. 31 Utah
N. 7 @Army
N. 14 BYU

BYU

S. 5 @UTEP
S. 10 San Diego St.
S. 19 UCLA
S. 26 @Hawaii
O. 2 Utah St.
O. 10 Fresno St.
O. 17 @Wyoming
O. 24 @Notre Dame
O. 31 Penn State
N. 7 New Mexico
N. 14 Air Force
N. 21 @Utah

Colorado St.

S. 5 @Colorado
S. 12 @Idaho
S. 19 @Fresno State
S. 26 @LSU
O. 3 Utah
O. 10 UTEP
O. 17 @Air Force
O. 24 Wyoming
O. 31 San Diego St.
N. 7 @Hawaii
N. 14 Ohio
N. 21 @New Mexico

Hawaii

S. 5 @Oregon
S. 12 @Air Force
S. 26 BYU
O. 10 @Utah
O. 17 Fresno St.
O. 24 UNLV
O. 31 @UTEP
N. 7 Colorado St.
N. 14 @San Diego St.
N. 21 Wyoming
N. 28 Tulsa
D. 6 Pittsburgh

New Mexico

S. 5 TCU
S. 12 @N.M. St.
S. 19 SMU
S. 26 @Air Force
O. 3 San Diego St.
O. 10 @Wyoming
O. 17 Utah
O. 24 @Fresno St.
N. 7 @BYU
N. 14 UTEP
N. 21 Colorado St.

San Diego St.

S. 5 Southern Cal.
S. 10 @BYU
S. 26 @UCLA
O. 3 @New Mexico
O. 17 UTEP
O. 24 Air Force
O. 31 @Colorado St.
N. 7 @Wyoming
N. 14 Hawaii
N. 21 Fresno State
N. 28 Miami

Utah

S. 5 @Nebraska
S. 12 @Utah State
S. 26 Oregon St.
O. 3 @Colorado St.
O. 10 Hawaii
O. 17 @New Mexico
O. 24 UTEP
O. 31 @Air Force
N. 7 @Fresno St.
N. 14 Wyoming
N. 21 BYU

INDEPENDENT

Louisville

S. 5 @Ohio St.
S. 12 Memphis St.
S. 19 @Arizona St.
S. 26 Wyoming
O. 3 Syracuse
O. 10 Virginia Tech
O. 17 Tulsa
O. 24 @Florida
O. 31 @Cincinnati
N. 7 @Texas A&M
N. 14 @Pittsburgh

Memphis State

S. 5 @S. Mississippi
S. 12 @Louisville
S. 19 Mississippi St.
S. 26 Arkansas
O. 10 Cincinnati
O. 17 Arkansas St.
O. 24 @Tulsa
O. 31 @Tulane
N. 7 @Mississippi
N. 14 Tennessee
N. 21 E. Carolina

Notre Dame

S. 5 @Northwestern
S. 12 Michigan
S. 19 @Michigan St.
S. 26 Purdue
O. 3 Stanford
O. 10 @Pittsburgh
O. 24 BYU
O. 31 @Navy
N. 7 Boston College
N. 14 Penn St.
N. 28 @USC

Penn State

S. 5 @Cincinnati
S. 12 Temple
S. 19 E. Michigan
S. 26 Maryland
O. 3 @Rutgers
O. 10 Miami
O. 17 Boston College
O. 24 @W. Virginia
O. 31 @BYU
N. 14 @Notre Dame
N. 21 Pittsburgh

Southern Miss.

S. 5 Memphis St.
S. 12 @Alabama
S. 19 Louisiana Tech
S. 26 @Auburn
O. 3 Tulsa
O. 10 @N. Illinois
O. 15 @Tulane
O. 24 Cincinnati
O. 29 @E. Carolina
N. 7 @Florida
N. 14 @Virginia Tech

Temple Univ.

S. 5 Boston Univ.
S. 12 @Penn St.
S. 19 Virginia Tech
S. 26 @Kansas St.
O. 3 @Wash. St.
O. 17 Pittsburgh
O. 24 Syracuse
O. 31 @B. College
N. 7 @Akron
N. 14 @Miami
N. 21 Rutgers

Tulsa

S. 5 Houston
S. 12 @Texas A&M
S. 19 Kansas
S. 26 @Oklahoma St.
O. 3 @S. Mississippi
O. 10 SW Missouri St.
O. 17 @Louisville
O. 24 Memphis St.
O. 31 SW Louisiana
N. 7 Texas-El Paso
N. 28 @Hawaii

A YEAR IN REVIEW

INDIVIDUAL-GAME HIGHS

- **Rushing and passing plays:** David Klingler, Houston (Texas Tech, Nov. 30), 80.
- **Rushing and passing yards:** Ty Detmer, Brigham Young (San Diego St., Nov. 16), 603.



- **Rushing plays:** Tony Sands, Kansas (Missouri, Nov. 23), 58.
- **Net rushing yards:** Tony Sands, Kansas (Missouri, Nov. 23), 396.
- **Passes attempted:** David Klingler, Houston (Texas Tech, Nov. 30), 70.
- **Passes completed:** David Klingler, Houston (Texas Tech, Nov. 30), 41
- **Passing yards:** Ty Detmer, Brigham Young (San Diego St., Nov. 16), 599.

Receiving and Returns

- **Passes caught:** Aaron Turner, Pacific (New Mexico St., Oct. 26); Fred Gilbert, Houston (Texas Tech, Nov. 30) and (Miami, Fla., Sept. 12), 16.
- **Receiving yards:** Greg Primus, Colorado St. (Hawaii, Sept. 28), 256.
- **Punt return yards:** Kevin Williams, Miami, Fla., and Penn St., Oct. 12), 152.

Kickoff return yards: Charles Levy, Arizona (Ohio St., Sept. 7), 180.

TEAM-GAME HIGHS

- **Net rushing yards:** Nebraska (Utah St., Sept. 7), 617.
- **Passing yards:** Houston (Louisiana Tech, Aug. 31), 630.
- **Rushing and passing yards:** Nebraska (Utah St., Sept. 7), 787
- **Fewest rush-pass yards allowed:** Iowa (Wisconsin, Oct. 12), 82.
- **Passes attempted:** Houston (Texas Tech, Nov. 30), 70.
- **Passes completed:** Houston (Louisiana Tech, Aug. 31), 43.
- **Points scored:** Fresno St. (New Mexico, Oct. 5), 94.

LONGEST PLAYS OF THE 1991 SEASON

RUSHING

PLAYER	TEAM	OPPONENT	YARDS
Chris Anderson	Alabama	Temple	96
Deon Strother	Southern Cal	California	92
Brandon Bennett	South Carolina	East Tenn. St.	89
Tico Duckett	Michigan St.	Minnesota	88
Danny Woodson	Alabama	Temple	85
Chris Gray	Air Force	New Mexico	85
Michael Carter	Hawaii	Air Force	85
Jay Barry	Washington	Nebraska	81
Edrian Oliver	Army	Harvard	81
Tony Smith	Southern Miss	Tulane	81

PASS/RUSH COMBINATION PLAY

PASSER-RECEIVER	TEAM	OPPONENT	YARDS
G. Torretta-H. Copeland	Miami	Arkansas	99
M.Veatch-B. Jackson	San Jose St.	Minnesota	95
M.Blundin-T. Davis	Virginia	North Carolina St.	91
T. Lowery-L. Deramus	Wisconsin	Eastern Mich.	89
A. Kelly-C. Pickens	Tennessee	Auburn	87
J. Brothers-C. Sevillian	Vanderbilt	Duke	86
G. Malauulu-D. Lockhart	Arizona	Stanford	85
R. Mirer-T. Smith	Notre Dame	Air Force	83
S. Jones-K. Walker	Georgia Tech	Maryland	82

INTERCEPTION RETURN

PLAYER	TEAM	OPPONENT	YARDS
Sebastian Savage	N.C. State	North Carolina	99
Mark McMillian	Alabama	Tenn.-Chatt.	98
Rodney Mazion	UNLV	New Mexico	96
Kirk Alexander	Virginia Tech	Cincinnati	95
Chris Hobbs	Memphis St.	Tennessee	95
Greg Grandison	E. Carolina	Virginia Tech	95

SPECIALISTS-SEASON BESTS

PUNT RETURNS

PLAYER	TEAM	OPPONENT	YARDS
Craig Thompson	E. Michigan	Western Michigan	96
Desmond Howard	Michigan	Ohio State	93
Kevin Williams	Miami	Penn State	91

KICKOFF RETURNS

PLAYER	TEAM	OPPONENT	YARDS
Anthony Prior	Washington St.	Southern Cal	100
Fred Montgomery	New Mexico St.	Long Beach State	100
Darrick Branch	Hawaii	New Mexico	98

FIELD GOALS

PLAYER	TEAM	OPPONENT	YARDS
Jason Hanson	Washington St.	UNLV	62
Jeff Ireland	Baylor	Rice	58
Joe Wood	Air Force	Notre Dame	58



David Klingler (far left) finished his career at Houston as the SWC all-time career passing leader with 9,340 yards, 91touchdowns and three-national bests last season. Hurricane Kevin Williams (left) had more than 100 all-purpose yards in six games last season.

1991 FINAL POLLS

	AP	USA Today/CNN	UPI
1.	Miami	Washington	Washington
2.	Washington	Miami	Miami
3.	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State
4.	Florida St.	Florida St.	Florida St.
5.	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
6.	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan
7.	Florida	California	Florida
8.	California	Florida	California
9.	E. Carolina	E. Carolina	E. Carolina
10.	Iowa	Iowa	Iowa
11.	Syracuse	Syracuse	Syracuse
12.	Texas A&M	Notre Dame	Notre Dame
13.	Notre Dame	Texas A&M	Texas A&M
14.	Tennessee	Oklahoma	Tennessee
15.	Nebraska	Tennessee	Nebraska
16.	Oklahoma	Nebraska	Oklahoma
17.	Georgia	Clemson	Clemson
18.	Clemson	UCLA	Colorado
19.	UCLA	Georgia	UCLA
20.	Colorado	Colorado	Georgia
21.	Tulsa	Tulsa	Tulsa
22.	Stanford	Stanford	Stanford
23.	B. Young	B. Young	N.C. State
24.	N.C. State	Air Force	B. Young
25.	Air Force	N.C. State	Ohio State

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